THE NEW
# INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • MARCH 28, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

People display an Ukrainian flag as they watch the broadcast of the international charity concert 'Save Ukraine - Stop War' streamed from Warsaw to the Old Town Square in Prague on Sunday | AFP

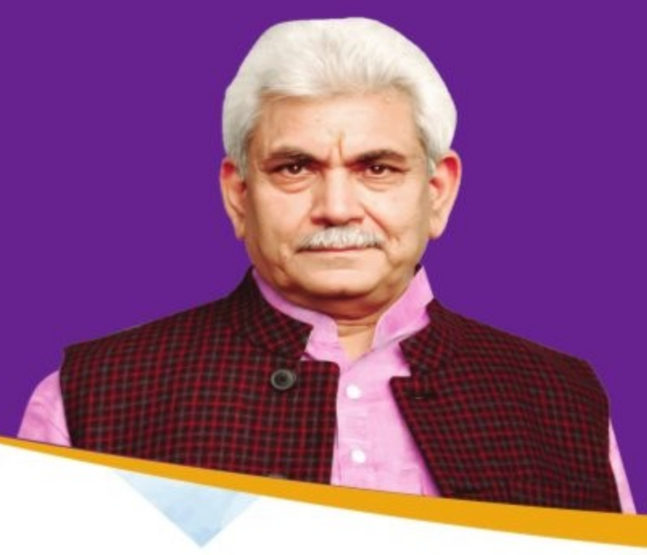
## ZELENSKYY ACCUSES WEST OF COWARDICE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the West of cowardice as his country fights to stave off Russia's invading troops. After US President Joe Biden said that Russian President Vladimir Putin could not stay in power, Zelenskyy lashed out on Sunday at the West's 'ping pong' about who and how should hand over fighter jets and other weapons, while Russian missile attacks kill and trap civilians | **P9**


Jubilant Jammu Kashmir

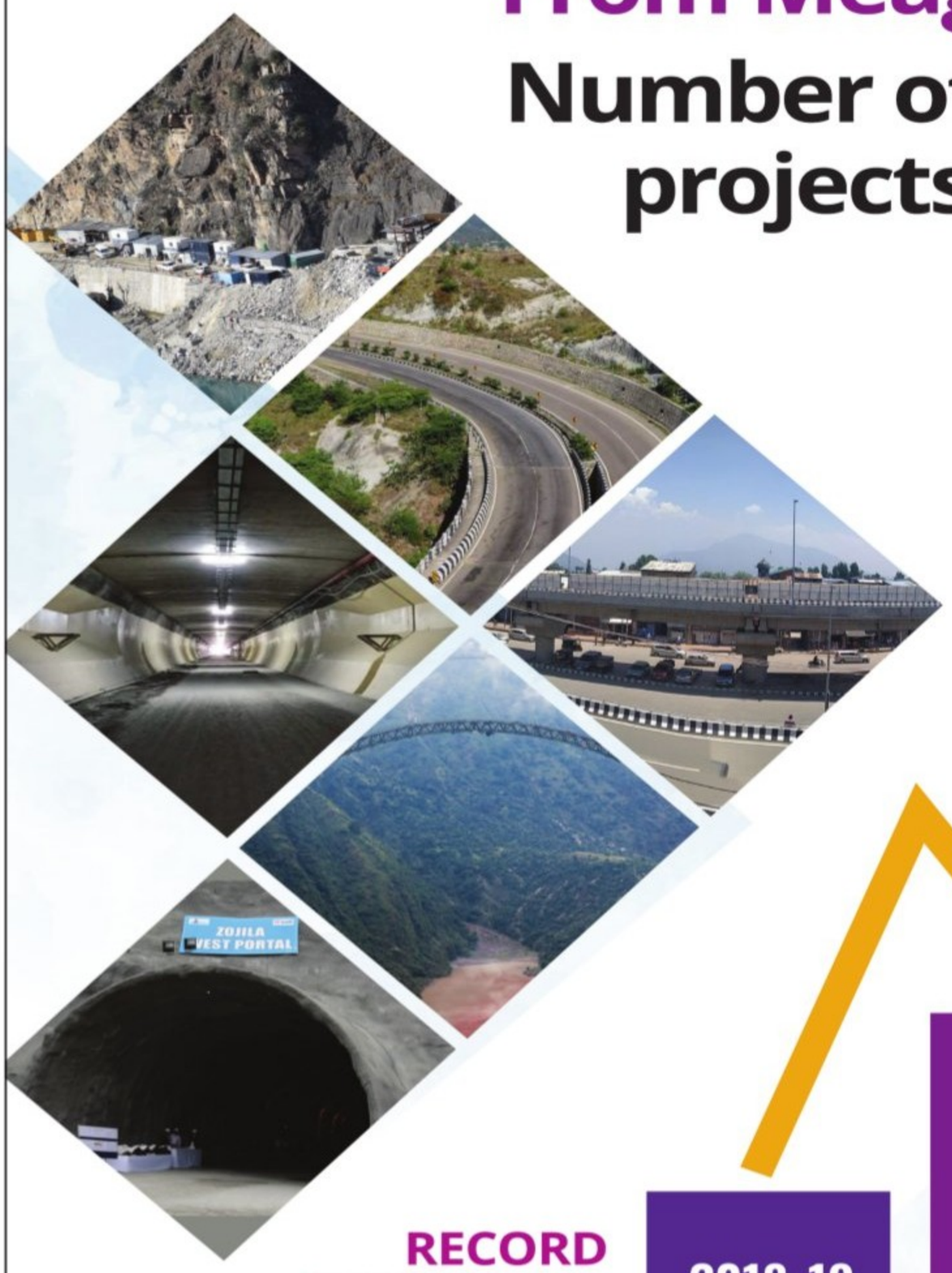
सत्यमेव जयते

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Towards Speed, Efficiency and Quality

From Meagre to Major
Number of completed projects doubled



RECORD NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

2018-19
9229
PROJECTS COMPLETED

2019-20
12637
PROJECTS COMPLETED

2020-21
21943
PROJECTS COMPLETED

2021-22
40000
PROJECTS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED

Peace, Progress, Prosperity, People First

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
@jkinformation @dipr-jk @diprjk

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

# BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday : 28/03/2022 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadasi 4.16 pm
• Nakshatra: Shravana 12.34 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST
Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 6.20 am
Sunset 6.30 pm
Moonrise 1.32 am
Moonset 1.06 pm



## Leopard on the prowl in Rail Wheel Factory in Yelahanka

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

NEARLY a thousand families inside the Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) on Doddaballapur Road in Yelahanka, and over a thousand others in several multi-storeyed residential buildings surrounding the campus have been gripped by panic and tension. For right inside the RWF campus, within city limits, a leopard was sighted prowling freely, and is still roaming around.

Two Railway Protection Force (RPF) constables, while on beat duty near the RWF campus periphery, sighted a leopard sneaking into the campus. To confirm what they had seen, the duo dashed to the CCTV control room where their fears were confirmed, said a senior RPF cop.

This is the first time a leopard has entered the area and forest department officials, who were alerted later, have confirmed that it is female.

The footage revealed that the wild cat had made its entry at 11.08pm from near the RWF lake area, an isolated spot. "The forest department was alerted on Sunday morning. They reached around 9.30am and are still camping at the spot to catch it. They have brought a cage to catch it, and have laid a trap and are waiting. The wait continues at 9pm," he said.

RWF manufacturing units are closed on Sunday. "Nearly 1,000 families of our employees reside in RWF colonies on our campus, and as a precautionary move we have alerted them not to step outside their homes," a top RWF official said.

The area is surrounded by multi-storeyed apartments and their residential associations have also been alerted about the incident, urging all to stay safe indoors.

Meera Srinivasan, one of the residents living within one kilometre of RWF, said, "The sighting of a leopard on RWF campus has come as a shock to us. The area is infested with snakes but never in our wildest dreams did we think a leopard could be prowling here. Many years ago, a leopard was sighted at Attur in Yelahanka when it was not so populated as it is now." The RPF has cordoned off the spot where the animal was sighted. "A total of 15 personnel, both from forest department and RPF, are silently waiting and keeping an eye out for it to make a move if it is still inside the campus. But the chances of it stepping out are much higher in the nights," he added.

**The sighting of a leopard on RWF campus has come as a shock to us. The area is infested with snakes but never in our wildest dreams did we think a leopard could be prowling here.**

Meera Srinivasan, a resident of an apartment in Yelahanka

Forest officials and RPF personnel have put up a cage to nab the leopard

## Amid tensions, SSLC exams begin today

### Students to write first offline exams in 3 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

With the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations to begin on Monday, tensions are high because of two factors - the hijab row, and this being the first offline final exams that the batch will be writing in three years.

The students will write the exams after being promoted directly from Classes 8 and 9.

Around 8.73 lakh students are expected to write the examinations on Monday in 3,444 centres across Karnataka.

Although the Karnataka high court has delivered its verdict on the hijab row less than two weeks ago, concerns surrounding the issue remains.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh reiterated on Sunday that hijabs would not be allowed inside the examination halls.

"There will be a reexamination after a month for those missing out on the exams, but after that there will be no chances to reappear. I'm confident that students will write the examinations. Hijabs will have to be removed once the students are within the campus," he said on Sunday.

Meetings for the examination arrangement have been conducted with officials from the education and police departments and prohibitory orders will be imposed around test centres, the minister said.

"In case there are any issues, Block Educational Officers have been instructed to immediately contact police. The Home Department will also have officers at the test centres to prevent any untoward incident," he said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has also asked students to write the exams without any fear and asked that they should focus on the examinations and their future.

**There'll be a reexamination after a month for those missing out on the exams, but after that there will be no chances to reappear**

BC Nagesh, Primary and Secondary Education Minister

REMEMBERING THE HEROES

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai (right) unveiled a bronze statue of Sandalwood superstar Puneeth Rajkumar at the Gandhadagudi Park in the BBMP office premises on Sunday. Recalling Puneeth's talent and human qualities, Bommai said the state government has decided to confer the Karnataka Ratna on the actor, and preparations are being made for the award ceremony. He was speaking after inaugurating Dr Rajkumar Glass House. "Puneeth left us at a very young age, and how a man lived is revealed after he is gone. His loss is felt personally in every family of Kannadigas, and in every nook and corner of Karnataka, you will find portraits of Dr Rajkumar and Puneeth," the CM said. Ashwini Rajkumar (second from right), wife of Puneeth Rajkumar, his brother Raghavendra Rajkumar and other family members were present during the event | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

## In Kempegowda Layout, transformer parts stolen

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

AS the site owners of the Bangalore Development Authority's Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) demand the right infrastructure, a peculiar problem has emerged: the theft of fixtures and other structures from at least 50 transformers.

Contractor L&T Limited on Sunday has filed individual complaints both with the Tavarekere and Kumbalgodu police stations against the theft of the equipments installed by them. The Layout presently has many transformer poles minus the other materials.

Sources familiar with the development told TNIE, "L&T had installed 250-plus transformers in Blocks 1 to 5 as part of the contract. While the thefts used to happen once a month earlier, it had become rampant in the last two weeks with materials on 50-plus transformers missing." It costs at least Rs 50,000 to erect a transformer including labour charges, he explained. L&T confirmed the development.

Ashok, a representative of NPKL Open Forum which represents a section of site owners, said, "Transformer poles, street-light pole frames, fixtures, fittings and even nut-bolts are being stolen frequently due to delay in commissioning power supply here." Dr Padma Prasad, Convenor of NPKL Progressive Front, which represents another section of site owners, said, "If the contractor suffers a huge loss due to theft, then there will be further delay in completion of the project."

A NEW CHAPTER

## *Bengaluru girl creates notebooks from unused paper*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN an effort to give back, a 17-year-old Bengaluru girl has donated 750 re-purposed notebooks to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Diya, a student of the Canadian International School, upcycled unused paper from her notebooks and also of friends', rebound them and donated them to a local government school and the Association of People with Disability (APD).

"I think re-purposing notebooks is a great way to reduce waste and make a difference to kids who may find it difficult to afford new notebooks. Also, raising money allowed me to bind the paper, giving the children both dignity and the thrill of receiving new notebooks," she said.

In an effort to create more awareness, Diya used social media to spread the word and set up drop boxes in local apartments to collect unused or slightly used books. Following this, she worked to rebind them and designed a front and back jackets for the new notebooks.

The 17-year-old got the idea after watching her mother upcycle unused paper for various household chores. As part of her schoolwork, Diya launched the initiative and used the help of a mentor to identify local charities and schools where she could donate the books. So far, she has donated around 750 notebooks for the benefit of 200 children between Classes 1 to 7 and continues to do so.

"Her efforts to up-cycle these notebooks also show her respect for the environment which is so important. Re-purposing notebooks is a novel idea and the right gesture to help the underprivileged," said Shweta Sastri, managing director for Canadian International School.

A 17-year-old student Diya distributes the re-purposed notebooks

## Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

**28th March : Well, it's Monday again. As you know (I hope), this is short for Moon's Day, and in all traditions from India through Persia to the Middle East and Europe, today was always considered sacred to the Moon. By the way, the Moon rules silver, so put your gold jewelry away, get out your solid silver table-ware and have yourself a thoroughly luxurious time.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're moving towards passionate, flexible and romantic influences as the planets head towards the next big crunch. When it happens it will be global as much as personal, so don't feel singled out for harsh treatment. At least you'll finally begin to understand what is what and who is who.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The week gets under way with planets which are almost perfect but also slightly flawed. Travel stars are now beginning to focus on long-distance adventures rather than short-range excursions. You may be attracted to the people and places from your past.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
The week will be cut into two by the movement of Mercury, your ruling planet, into a new and down-to-earth region. Whatever your commitments or responsibilities at the beginning of the week, by the weekend you'll be rushed off your feet. You might even be breaking free from a comfortable rut.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
You appear to have come to the conclusion that a move or reorganisation of your domestic life should take place. You must also be aware that this is no time for complacency. The best advice may come from people who haven't known you for long - and can therefore be impartial.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may either conform or go your own merry way. You see, although some planets are advising you to keep your head down, Mercury is shortly to alter its position and is due to boost your morale no end. It will do this partly by encouraging you to make up your own mind for a change.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Only after another month has passed will you be clear about the future. Even then you may be so deluged with social engagements or routine commitments that you may not be sure where to turn. At work, you're in a strong position but must use your skills wisely.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You are not one to bow the knee, but there may be times this week when it is best to defer to authority. On the other hand, you are yourself due a little respect for your undoubted skills and achievements. You may just receive it early next week, with another bout, a couple of weeks later.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The tide of fortune is turning in your favour. The stars have already set up a number of chances. Your task this week is to move very rapidly to commit others to whatever promises they have made. The only proposals which work will be those which have a proper practical basis.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Remember that the long-term issue is still one of your security, financial and emotional. You are now approaching the final resolution of a major question, one that has bugged you for far too long. Just a word of advice - let partners take first place.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
These are intense and highly significant times for all your most important emotional ties. While some of you are still uncertain, others are recognising that a period of stability and consolidation is essential. What else can we expect at a time of change?

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may be confused and perplexed after recent emotional upsets, but I'd advise you to play safe and not to use current uncertainty to settle any old scores. Pay more attention to relations' needs and desires. Understand these and you're halfway home.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There are a number of questions to be answered, but it is unlikely that the answers will be clear just yet. But that probably won't bother you, for you tend to operate intuitively and telepathically. Of course, you still have to make sure that other people get your drift.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

PRESIDENTS DAY GOES BACK TO 1885 WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY BECAME A NATIONAL HOLIDAY.
COOL
I HOPE SOMEONE IS STILL CELEBRATING MY BIRTHDAY AFTER I'VE BEEN GONE THAT LONG.

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

**Hard:** Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

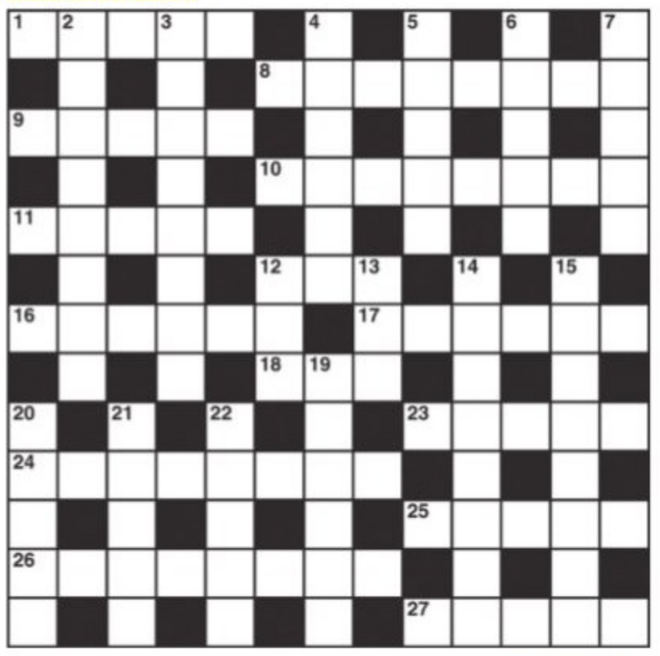
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 3 | | 8 | 7 | |
| | 4 | 5 | 2 | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | | 9 | | 5 | |
| 7 | | | | | 3 | 6 | | |
| 9 | | | 8 | | 2 | | | 7 |
| | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 9 |
| | 8 | | 4 | | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | 6 | 4 | 1 | |
| | 1 | 7 | | 2 | | | | |

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 |

CROSS WORD



**ACROSS**

1 It's evenly balanced just the same (5)
8 Bar on a flight (5,3)
9 Passes around a form of fuel (5)
10 Holy man going on horseback or walking (8)
11 Doctor caught in error is a simple man (5)
12 Pay for service (3)
16 Latins put out or put in office (6)
17 Think what people who count will do (6)
18 Make second hand (3)
23 General stall (5)
24 Alarming trouble on the border (8)
25 Renounce international body for example (5)
26 Not altogether how steam is converted (8)
27 It's a decorative edging one gathers (5)

**DOWN**

2 Result of division not quite correct (8)
3 Variety needed in world construction (3,5)
4 Upper class taken in by government figure (6)
5 Reflective note (5)
6 Morally weak perhaps giving Father trouble (5)
7 Saw a number grow old (5)
12 Fever starts to fluctuate (3)
13 Scrub as taken out before (3)
14 A ship in which sherry may be served (8)
15 A sound step (8)
19 Mark the sailor a six-footer (6)
20 Anasty accident on the tennis court ? (5)
21 Sounds a ghastly storyteller (5)
22 Opinions wives expressed differently (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Nom de plume, 6 Faro, 10 Dosed, 11 Candidate, 12 Charcoal, 13 Ibsen, 15 Appoint, 17 Stealth, 19 Landing, 21 Rissole, 22 Alibi, 24 Listless, 27 Ebullient, 28 Drawl, 29 Ties, 30 Unromantic.

**Down:** 1 Nods, 2 Misshapen, 3 Elder, 4 Lock-out, 5 Mangles, 7 Amass, 8 One in three, 9 Big ideas, 14 Parliament, 16 Initials, 18 Look smart, 20 Galleon, 21 Risotto, 23 Inure, 25 Lydia, 26 Alec.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

**Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.**

VEAEL

TBYAT

HORSDU

ATNTIA

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Look! I knew them all!
It certainly looks like it!
Bravo!
SHE CORRECTLY ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION ON HER HISTORY EXAM, WHICH HER SCORE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here:

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S **Jumbles:**
YIELD TOPAZ WINDOW BONNET
**ANSWER:** They ended the season with just a single victory, which was their -- "WON" AND ONLY

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*SUNDAY SPECIAL: SINDHU REIGNS SUPREME IN BASEL*

**Ace shuttler downs Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan 21-16, 21-8 to win World Tour title, her second of 2022**

**BIG-GAME MENTALITY TO THE FORE**

There was a time when the World No 7 was accused of losing in clutch moments. These days, though, the 26-year-old is in a different zone in crucial moments. Against the Thai, she raced away into a big lead from 13-13 in the opening game. She stays patient, doesn't panic and works out solutions. That's what's made her highly effective in big matches

**LEADS WORLD TOUR RANKINGS**

- The two-time Olympic medallist is No 1 in the 'Race to Guangzhou' rankings. It shows how well she has started in 2022. This is her second title. She also made it to the semifinal of India Open
- In the men's final featuring, India's HS Prannoy went down 12-21, 18-21 to Indonesia's Jonathan Christie | **P11**

**15**

**NO OF MATCHES SINDHU HAS ALREADY WON IN 2022**


CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI


*By the barest of margins*

**Nail-biting finish**

India women fought till the last ball to keep the World Cup campaign alive, but South Africa's Mignon du Preez held her nerve to eliminate them from the WC

**No-ball bites India**

When it seemed like Du Preez had got out to Deepti Sharma on the penultimate ball of the match with 3 runs needed, it turned out be a no-ball & that cost India | **P11**

# Imran sees foreign hand in no-trust

Urges party MPs to stay united and vote to save the govt; copycat opposition rally today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHEAD of a no-trust motion in Parliament, Pakistan's embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday alleged a foreign-funded conspiracy was afoot to topple his coalition government. Claiming it was hatched as he refused to let Pakistan's foreign policy be influenced from abroad, he dramatically waved a 'letter' as proof but refused to make it public.

Addressing a well-attended rally that was seen as his Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) show of strength in Islamabad, Imran said: "Attempts are being made to influence our foreign policy from abroad. We have been aware of this conspiracy for months... Nothing can be hidden. We will not accept anyone's dictation. We will have friendships with everyone but we will not submit ourselves to anyone."

Bitterly criticising opposition leaders, he called them three stooges, and alleged that they were looting the country for years. He was alluding to Asif Ali Zardari, Shahbaz Sharif and Maulana Fazlur Rehman. "I will not forgive them even if my government goes," he claimed.

Imran urged his party lawmakers as well as members of the opposition to desist from voting against him in the upcoming no-trust vote. "I called you here because attempts are being made to bribe people. They decided to dislodge our government by claiming that Pakistan is being destroyed. I challenge that no government gave a performance like we did in our three and a half years," he told the rally.

Despite Imran's appeal, Baloch leader Shahzain Bugti decided to part ways with him. Bugti was working as special assistant to the prime minister on reconciliation and harmony in Balochistan. He said that the PM had promised to focus on South Balochistan and underdeveloped areas, "but he failed to do so".

A copycat rally in Islamabad has been lined up by the opposition to show its clout on Monday. While all constituent parties are mobilising their cadre, a protest march led by PML-N leaders Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shehbaz, who is the son of Shehbaz Sharif, that started from Lahore, will reach the capital for the rally.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan (C) along with other lawmakers, gestures upon his arrival to address a rally of his party, in Islamabad on Sunday | AFP

**Tightlipped on Army**

While the Army's decision to stay neutral triggered the rebellion in the ruling camp, Imran didn't want to say anything that would malign the institution, even off the record to Pak journalists. He, however, was not in favour of a second extension to Army chief Gen Javed Bajwa

# No hijab inside SSLC exam hall, says Nagesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bagalkot

STUDENTS are allowed to wear hijab only till the examination centre and they have to remove it before entering the classroom to write the SSLC exams, which are beginning from Monday, said

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B Nagesh here on Sunday. Nagesh, who was here to inspect preparations made for the SSLC board exams, said, "The Karnataka High Court has banned religious clothing inside school and colleges. Students have to attend exams in the uniform prescribed by their respective schools. The uniform is mandatory for all students except repeaters."

Asked whether the government will hold re-exams for students who boycott exams over the hijab issue, he said, "The government has already made it clear that it will not give a second chance to those who boycott exams over the issue. We will not conduct re-exams, instead they can write supplementary exams."

He said, "The government has made all the preparations for the smooth conduct of SSLC exams in the state."

For the smooth conduct of examinations, ban orders under Section 144 of CrPC has been imposed around all examination centres. A special direction has been given to all Block Education Officers to coordinate with local police to prevent any untoward incidents during exam hours, he said.

**Hijab allowed if part of uniform in DK**

Mangaluru: Dakshina Kannada district administration has clarified that girls are allowed to wear hijab inside the SSLC exam hall if it is part of their school uniform. A number of schools, especially those run by Muslim organisations and whose school uniform includes hijab, had sought a clarification on an education department order. **P4**

**Don't boycott exams: Muslim organisations**

Chitradurga: Muslim religious heads and oganisations have requested students to write the SSLC examinations and not to boycott them over the hijab issue. Chitradurga DDPI K Ravishankar Reddy said, "All exam centres will have separate changing rooms for girls to remove hijab and then enter the exam hall." **P4**

**EXPRESS READ**

## Fuel prices hiked again; Cong poser on ₹26L cr duty

New Delhi: The price of petrol was raised by 50 paise and that of diesel by 55 paise on Sunday — the fifth hike of fuel prices in less than a week. Criticising the government, Congress sought an account of ₹26 lakh crore earned as duty on fuel. "In eight years, earned ₹26 lakh crore through tax loot. Were silent for 137 days to dupe voters, then in only six days, loot of ₹3.75 per litre," party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said

## 43-day pilgrimage to Amarnath set to start on June 30

Srinagar: Amarnath yatra will begin on June 30 this year, an official said on Sunday. The annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath shrine has remained suspended for the past two years due to Covid-19. Online registration will start on April 11. "It was decided that the 43-day yatra will commence on June 30 with all Covid protocols in place. It will culminate on the day of Raksha Bandhan on August 11," the official said | **P8**

## RCB go down to Punjab Kings by 5 wickets

Bengaluru: Royal Challengers Bangalore lost to Punjab Kings despite their first innings score of 205/2 in their maiden IPL game in Mumbai on Sunday. In a game, where 27 sixes were struck, Odean Smith's 8-ball 25 at the end proved to be a match-winning cameo. Five of the six RCB bowlers went for more than 9 runs per over, which made life difficult for captain Faf Du Plessis. The South African's impressive 57-ball 88 also went in vain | **P11**

| NATIONWIDE | MAR 26 | MAR 27 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 1,660 | 1,421 |
| Recoveries | 2,349 | 1,826 |
| Deaths | 4,100 | 149 |
| **KARNATAKA** | **MAR 26** | **MAR 27** |
| Fresh cases | 79 | 64 |
| Recoveries | 64 | 62 |
| Deaths | 1 | 1 |

# INOX+PVR = MOTHER OF ALL MULTIPLEX CHAINS

ARSHAD KHAN @ new Delhi

BADLY bruised by the Covid pandemic and the growing appeal of alternative OTT platforms, India's leading multiplex operators Inox Leisure and PVR Ltd on Sunday decided to merge operations to create the largest multiplex chain in the country.

The joint entity, to be branded as PVR INOX, with the branding of existing screens to continue as PVR and INOX respectively. In all, it will operate 1,546 screens across 341 properties in 109 cities. While Inox operates 675 screens across 160 properties in 72 cities and PVR has 871 screens across 181 properties in 73 cities.

Post-merger, the promoters of INOX will become co-promoters in the merged entity along with PVR's promoters. INOX promoters will then have 16.66% stake while PVR promoters will have 10.62% in the combined entity. As per a regulatory filing, INOX shareholders will receive three shares of PVR for 10 shares of INOX.

Ajay Bijli, Chairman and Managing Director of PVR said, "Creating scale to achieve efficiencies is critical for the long-term survival of the business." He, however, claimed the challenges of the last two years — Covid and the increasing decibel level of OTT — were not the trigger for the merger.

INOX director Siddharth Jain said, "The partnership would bring in enhanced productivity through scale, a deeper reach in newer markets and numerous cost optimisation opportunities." He expected the merger to be over in six to nine months.

Both Bijli and Jain said the new entity would work towards taking world-class cinema experience closer to Tier 2 and 3 markets. **P10**

**Regulatory approval**

The merger is subject to approval of the shareholders of INOX and PVR, as well as stock exchanges, SEBI and other regulatory approvals. It is expected to improve administration and cost optimisation to create synergy. Their nearest rival is Cinepolis India, which operates 360 screens under the brand names of Cinepolis, Cinepolis VIP & Fun Cinemas

# CKP VARSITY

**CM TO DISCUSS DEMAND IN SESSION**

CM Basavaraj Bommai has said there is a demand to turn Chitrakala Parishat into a deemed university. Action would be initiated on that front in the next Legislature session | **P4**



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A 13-year-old boy, who went swimming with his friends, drowned in a lake on the outskirts of Bengaluru in Sarjapur police station limits on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Santosh, a resident of Vidyanagar, who was studying in Class 7

## STRAWS IN THE WIND

CM Basavaraj Bommai and his cabinet collegue Dr CN Ashwath Narayan relish ice candies after the inauguration of Chitra Santhe, in Bengaluru on Sunday

### *Really, Mr Renukacharya? Unbelievable!*

The ongoing assembly session broke out into furore last week as MLAs, irrespective of party affiliation, raised the issue of Veerashaiva Lingayats allegedly getting SC certificates by sly means, claiming themselves to be 'Beda jangama'. That CM Basavaraj Bommai's political secretary M P Renukacharya's son and daughter had got SC certificates left the government in a spot, and Law Minister J C Madhuswamy was forced to respond. "Give us particular cases and we will take action against such people," he said. Renukacharya, though, tried to brazen it out, saying he was unaware that his children had got the said certificates, and even suspected that his brother might have got the certificates made with the help of a Bengaluru tahsildar. That one was surely for the gullible. "I am a secular person who follows the principles of Dr B R Ambedkar," he asserted. A dicey situation for Renukacharya, with his own party colleage P Rajeev saying the SC quota is their constitutional right which other castes should not claim.

### *Tantras and travails of the gaddi*

Of late, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has been seen nursing a limp, and taking the support of his colleagues and staff while ascending and descending the dais or stairs. During an event at the banquet hall in Vidhana Soudha recently, where he appreciated the heroics of Onake Obavva, he needed a hand while stepping down from the dais. This has led to a buzz in the powerhouse that some of his detractors, who want him to step down from the CM's gaddi, have resorted to black magic. Since party bosses have reposed faith in him and he is likely to continue as CM, his rivals are taking the help of supernatural powers from the world of spook, and that too from Kerala! That was enough for his family, especially wife Channamma's close kin, to seek the blessings of a powerful deity of Karnataka, to nullify the Kerala black magic on Bommai.

### *It's only a matter of self-image*

The newly installed statue of Rashtrakavi Manjeshwar Govinda Pai at Navabharath Circle in Mangaluru has raised several eyebrows. According to the grapevine in BJP circles, the statue did not resemble the poet, and its sculptor was advised to correct it multiple times. Even when the statue -- of the poet in a sitting posture reading the Navabharat newspaper -- was finally unveiled for approved, it bore little resemblance. Someone who was part of the discussion quipped that the statue actually resembled local MLA D Vedavyas Kamath, and that was that -- no more corrections, and the MLA was also more than happy.

### *Rifts and reconciliation in Udupi Cong*

Internal differences in the Udupi District Congress unit have worsened, and even MP Oscar Fernandes has not been able to help much. Differences were at a peak about three years ago, when former ministers Pramod Madhwaraj and Vinay Kumar Sorake led their own factions. When Pramod lost the MP election in 2019 as a JDS candidate (supported by Congress), fingers were pointed to Sorake's supporters for causing a certain degree of damage. Now, three years on, Pramod has tweeted photographs of him hobnobbing with Sorake at Sri Vishnumurthi Temple, Mattu, near Katapadi, on Friday. If Pramod was messaging a change in stance, it left party workers flummoxed. Or it could be just an attempt to show that all is well, with elections looming up in a few months...

# CM to meet Shekhawat over water disputes

Says era of development has arrived in K'taka and projects announced in budget will be implemented at the earliest

AMIT S UPADHYE
@ Hubballi

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that he will met Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi in the first week of April to discuss the inter-state water disputes Karnataka has with other states.

Emphasising the need to solve water disputes, Bommai said the state's legal time will be provided with the details on cases that are pending for a long time in various courts. "The team will take up cases on a priority basis. The state will also be trying to get the required clearances for the projects that are pending," Bommai told the media here.

WATER ROW

Bommai blamed the prevailing pandemic as the reason for halting several developmental works in the state. "The era of development has come. Projects announced in the recent budget will be implemented at the earliest. I'll ensure that the budgetary allocations and schemes are implemented on the ground before the end of April. As I have already announced, a committee will be set up under the chief secretary which should start functioning from Monday," he added.

He also expressed confidence in the Centre clearing pending railway projects.

"There are a few hurdles such as land acquisition which will be resolved in the coming days. In a nutshell, I want to say that we will lay the foundation for the planned development of the state in the coming days," he added.

Bommai pointed out that for many years development of Kalyana Karnataka was delayed for various reasons. "Now, we will ensure that the works pertaining to the Kalyana Karnataka region will be expedited soon. The government intends to provide Rs 3,000 crore for the region and already Rs 1,400 crore has been released," he added.

#### Land for Jayadeva institute

Bommai also said that Dharwad Deputy Commissioner has been directed to finalise the land for construction of a regional branch of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Hubballi. Similarly, a unit of Kidwai will be coming up in Belagavi and land for the same will be finalised soon, he added.

> **The legal team will take up cases on a priority basis. The state will also try to get the required clearances for the projects that are pending**
>
> Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

Visitors throng the 19th edition of Chitra Santhe in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

# Chitrakala Parishat to get deemed varsity tag, art galleries in 6 places, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that steps would be taken to set up Chitrakala art galleries in six places in Karnataka.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 19th edition of the 'Chitra Santhe' organised by the Chitrakala Parishat in Bengaluru on Sunday.

He said there is a demand to make Chitrakala Parishat, an autonomous institution, into a deemed university. Action will be initiated to declare it a deemed university in the next session of the state legislature, he added.

"Chitra Santhe is a wonderful concept. Any art would find its value when it is showcased to the world. Chitra Santhe is doing it in an innovative way enabling lakhs of people to witness it and get inspired. It is a great source of encouragement for artists," Bommai said.

"Chitra Santhe, a confluence of artists and the patrons of art, is happening after two years. It should go on eternally. Our government is committed to encourage all forms of art and culture," Bommai said. The Chief Minister praised BL Shankar for the growth of Chitrakala Parishat.

Referring to the critics of art, the CM said, "You need not get disturbed by the critics. Their criticism will make you improve further."

Bommai interacted with the artists and showed keen interest as he viewed their works of art on display and sale at the Chitra Santhe which stretched from Windsor Manor Circle to Shivananda Circle. Artists from various states and countries were present. Bommai inaugurated Chitra Santhe by signing on the side of an art depicting Mother India.

# Hijab allowed inside SSLC exam hall if part of uniform: DK administration

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

THE Dakshina Kannada district administration on Sunday clarified that students are allowed to wear hijab inside the SSLC exam hall if it is part of their school uniform.

A number of schools, especially those run by Muslim organisations and whose school uniform consists hijab, had sought a clarification in view of the order issued by the education department stating that uniform is compulsory for those appearing for SSLC examination. Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner KV Rajendra held a meeting with senior officials of revenue, education and police departments on Sunday in which he made it clear that students should not be barred from entering the exam hall with hijab if it is part of their uniform and asked the officials to communicate the same to all exam centres. Till Sunday morning, there was confusion in this regard as some media reports even quoted Education Minister BC Nagesh stating that hijab is not allowed even if its part of the uniform. The heads of SSLC examin centres, which were to host students of schools that have hijab as part of uniform, were in a fix. They did not find any help from the Block Education Officers (BEO) as they were simply told to follow the government order.

A head master of a government school in Bantwal taluk said the schools not receiving any written communication till the eleventh hour made things worse for them. "I was getting calls from a head of a Muslim school where hijab is part of uniform. I had told that hijab will not be allowed and I had based my decision on media reports. Now, the confusion is cleared," he heaved a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Muslim leaders and clerics were busy in the last two days urging the parents to ensure that their children do not miss the crucial board exam in view of hijab issue. "The matter is in Supreme Court and the fight for our Constitutional right will continue. But that should not affect our children's education," said Mohammed Masood, president of Muslim Central Committee, an umbrella body of all Muslim organisations in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. He said the community leaders have been holding meetings with parents at their respective places to convince them not to hamper their children's future by not sending them for exams.

A file photo of students wearing hijab which is part of uniform in Mangaluru

#### Organisations say girls must remove hijab, write exam

DAVANAGERE/CHITRADURGA/UDUPI: Muslim religious heads and oganisations have requested students to write the SSLC examination beginning from Monday and not to boycott them over the hijab issue. Stressing the importance of the exam, Muslim clerics during Friday prayers requested parents to send their children to exams wearing hijab till the exam hall, remove it there and then to write the exams, adhering to the Karnataka High Court order. Tanzeem Association member and senior advocate BK Rehamathulla said, "Education is as important as religion. Now our women are taking up education and jobs seriously. It is not right to boycott any qualifying exams and curtail their education." Advocate Zulfikar, State Waqf Board member Anwar Basha and others from Tanzeem Association met school authorities and requested them to erect separate enclosures to allow Muslim girl students to remove their hijab. Meanwhile, Udupi Khazi M Abdul Hameed Musliyar Mani has asked Muslim parents whose wards are appearing for SSLC exam to ensure their children attend the exams.

#### KEEP NON-HINDU TRADERS AWAY FROM CHAMUNDI HILLS: VHP

MYSURU: Amidst the controversy over a ban sought on Muslim traders operating businesses at temple fairs, the Vishva Hindu Parishad too has demanded a ban on non-Hindu traders at Chamundi Hills. In a letter addressed to the Executive Officer of Chamundi Hills and the DC's office, members of VHP's Mysuru city unit requested that non-Hindus should not be permitted to run business on the iconic hillock. The members said there are over five Muslim traders currently operating businesses atop Chamundi Hills, including a garment shop. Praveen Kumar, secretary of VHP Mysuru city unit, said that as per the Act of Department of Endowment, 31(12), the area next to the temple belonging to the department should not be given under contract to non-Hindus. "As per this rule, the department must ensure that non-Hindus are not awarded the tender and that they are not allowed to participate in the tender process too," he said.

# Ban on Muslim vendors is untouchability: Vishwanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

BANNING Muslims from conducting business on temple premises is illogical. The government should break its silence and take action against temple authorities, otherwise people will act, said BJP MLC H Vishwanath.

After meeting former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi at Gokak on Sunday, he said, "Prime minister Narendra Modi has given the message of 'Sab ka vikas and vishwas'. But our state is moving in the wrong direction. How are those Muslims, who sell flowers, fruits and puja material near temples, going to earn their livelihood? It amounts to untouchability.

The government should think beyond party, caste and religion." On a ministerial berth being denied to Ramesh Jarkiholi, he said, "Some unknown hands are working behind the scenes, trying to end my and Jarkiholi's careers. We are the reason for the present BJP government to come to power. We will not tolerate it if the party tries to suppress us. An atmosphere is being created against backward leaders including Siddaramaiah, Jarkiholi and me."

# *Roshan Baig meets Naqvi, speaks of fear among minorities*

BENGALURU: Raising the issue of a growing sense of fear among minorities, former Congress MLA **Roshan Baig** met Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in New Delhi on Sunday. He requested Naqvi to lead a delegation of Muslim scholars, journalists, religious leaders and social reformers to meet PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, so this "fear factor" can be addressed. Baig, who met Naqvi at the Safdar Jung ministerial quarters, told TNIE on his arrival from Delhi, that he had waited for three days to meet the Union minister. He said, "I have come across many parents who are concerned about their children, especially their daughters. Why should anyone live in fear in a democracy?" Finally, people will wait for the Supreme Court to give its verdict on the issue, he added. There have been many other political developments in Karnataka too, like hawkers belonging to the minority communities being kept away from Hindu places of worship, and other issues pertaining to minorities. **ENS**

POST MESS

# *Promotion of engineers in four depts creates confusion*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THERE is serious confusion over promotions to the posts of chief engineers and engineers-in-chief in different departments in the state.

Government sources said that public works, water resources, minor irrigation and rural development and panchayat raj departments had a common pool of engineers before 2021. But last year, the government passed an order splitting all the four departments, leading to problems of seniority and promotions among engineers.

Earlier, chief engineers of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) oversaw promotions, postings and seniority of all the four departments, but that changed last year. Engineers from the four departments feel that they should have been given the option to pick departments and DPAR should have retained its control. In 2020, PWD and water sources departments broke away from the common pool, leading to resentment among engineers of other departments.

Sources said all the four departments together have 51 sanctioned posts of engineers-in-chief and chief engineers, but DPAR has promoted 70 to these top positions, creating an excess of 19 engineers who have no sanctioned posts. PWD has 13 sanctioned posts, but there are a total of 55 chief engineers. The Irrigation Department has 36 sanctioned positions, but only 15 have opted for them.

The engineers have now written to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar and other top officials to order DPAR to redo the promotions, strictly based on seniority.

#### Renukacharya to file for defamation

DAVANAGERE: CM Basavaraj Bommai's political secretary MP Renukacharya on Sunday said he would file a defamation suit against the Congress spokesperson from Mysuru, for alleging that he had obtained caste certificates illegally. He told the media that he had not got fake certificates for his children, and was ready for any kind of investigation. The Congress spokesperson's allegations that he had benefited by `40 lakh to `80 lakh are baseless, and if he has any documents, he can make them public or place them before court, he said. Renukacharya said his daughter's name is Chetana, and he has not availed of any benefits. Former CM Siddaramaiah and former social welfare minister H Anjaneya have granted benefits to Chetana Hiremath, a different person, he claimed. He said his caste is Veerashaiva, and though he is eligible to obtain an SC certificate, he hadn't.

Actor Dileep will appear before the Crime Branch team investigating the 2017 actor abduction case at 10am on Monday for further interrogation. Earlier, the CB had directed him to appear at the Aluva Police Club on Thursday, but the actor reportedly requested that he be excused, citing prior engagements

# India to issue 5L free visas to boost tourism

Centre has decided to extend facilities and give a facelift to travel destinations in India, says minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

ON the occasion of resumption of long-awaited international travel on Sunday, the Central government has decided to issue visas free of cost for the first five lakh passengers arriving in India, Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Sunday.

"To promote tourism which has been badly mauled by Covid-19, the Centre has decided to extend the facility and at the same time give a facelift to the tourist destinations in India," he said at a news conference.

The Union Minister said he had reviewed the post-Covid situation obtaining on the tourism front and called upon tourism operators and agencies to ensure that maximum possible facilities are provided to the tourists in all parts of the country.

"The Centre also decided to make obtaining visas to visit India easier. Henceforth, in 170 countries, one need not approach the Indian embassy and stand in queue for visas. What all they have to do is simply send an application online and an e-visa would be granted to them," Kishan Reddy said.

To another question, he said that his ministry was seized of the need for protecting heritage monuments by bringing in an Act with stringent provisions and implementing it effectively. "For instance, at Golconda, there are too many encroachments. The State police had not addressed the problem, despite repeated requests from the ASI. The problem is similar almost everywhere and therefore there is a need for an Act," he said, asserting that the relevant bill would be introduced in the next session of Parliament after discussing the issue with the Prime Minister.

The Union Minister was livid with the State government for not cooperating in grounding tourism projects in the State. "The Centre is ready to clear MMTS line between Ghatkesar near Hyderabad to Yadadri where Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple has been renovated but the State government has to sign an agreement with the Railways," he said.

"Similarly, for Ram Temple at Bhadrachalam, the Centre wants to lay a railway line to the temple town from Kothagudem. But the Centre is yet to allot land for laying the lines," he added. He was also unhappy over the lack of response from the State government in providing 25 acres of land for establishing the Science City project.

AT DISPLAY

# MRSAM-Army system: India tastes twin success

The Medium-Range Surface-to-Air-Missile being test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the Odisha coast on Sunday | EXPRESS

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
@ Bhubaneswar

INDIA successfully conducted twin tests of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) from a defence facility off Odisha coast on Sunday demonstrating the system's high killing efficiency.

Both the rounds of the army variant of the missile were test-fired from the launching complex - III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur as part of the live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets. The network-centric and most advanced sleek missile has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in collaboration with public and private sector enterprises.

Defence sources said the MRSAM-Army system intercepted unmanned aerial vehicles and destroyed them completely achieving direct hits at both long and short ranges. The missile intercepted the target in medium altitude at long range during the first trial and destroyed another target in low altitude at short range during second trial.

The flight tests were carried out by DRDO in the presence of senior officials of Indian Army. The performance of the weapon system was validated through the flight data captured by range instruments like radars, electro-optical tracking systems and telemetry deployed by the ITR.

"All mission parameters were successfully met and Indian missile components validated. The tests are major milestones in achieving the idea of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy.

With a strike range of nearly 100 km, the 4.5-meter long supersonic quick reaction missile weighs around 2.7 tonne and can carry a payload of 60 kg. Travelling at a speed of Mach 2, it can achieve high degrees of manoeuvrability at the terminal phase.

Each MRSAM unit comprises one command and control system, multi functional surveillance tracking radar, threat alert radar, mobile launcher, combat management system, mobile power and radar power systems apart from the missile.

The next generation weapon system has been developed with cutting-edge technology to neutralise airborne threats.

# HOSP OFFERS HELP, FAMILY DROPS CONVERSION PLAN

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Vijayapura

A Hindu family was reportedly prevented from converting to Christianity after BLDE Hospital extended help for the treatment of their three-year-old son suffering from Thalassemia.

Iranna Nagur (34), an employee of a dhaba (hotel) and a resident of Basavana Bagewadi, was struggling to provide proper medical treatment to his only son because of poor financial condition. He has already spent over Rs 3 lakh for the treatment of his son. He even toured most of the cities in South India in search of better medical treatment for his ailing son. However, a hospital in Vellore of Tamil Nadu run by a Christian Missionary reportedly had assured of helping him on certain conditions, including offering prayers at church for at least two months.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, Iranna pointed out that, "I was exhausted as I could not get any financial support from anywhere for the treatment of my son. I used to earn Rs 12,000 per month but I was forced to spend nearly half of the earnings for the medical treatment of my son.."

The 3-year-old being treated for thalassemia free of cost at BLDE Hosp in Vijayapura | EXPRESS

"When I had been to the hospital in Vellore, they promised me of making all the arrangements, including Rs 10 lakh for the bone marrow surgery of my son with the condition of offering daily prayers at church."

"The talks were also held about the conversion to Christianity. I was determined to accept Jesus because the hospital authorities had promised to take care of all the medical expenses of my son," detailed Iranna who has three children including two daughters.

The family has now dropped the plans of converting to Christianity after Congress MLA M B Patil, who is also the chairman of BLDE Association, came to know about the family's plight and directed the officials of BLDE Hospital to provide treatment for free.

# 8 die as Tirupati bus falls into gorge

SRI KRISHNA KUMMARA
@ Tirupati

IT was a joint rescue operation by the police, fire services personnel and the sleuths of the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force, TTD Vigilance wing and the special party police late Saturday night that saw scores of injured persons travelling in the ill-fated bus travelling from Dharmavaram in Anantapur to Tirupati rescued from the gorge into which it fell. Eight persons, including six of a group of people proceeding towards Tiruchanoor to attend an engagement, were killed and 45 others were injured when the bus fell into a gorge at a dangerous curve on the Bhakarapeta ghat road Saturday night.

"We grabbed the blankets, towels, shirts and whatever available in the baggage of the people travelling in the bus and they helped us in lifting the injured from the steep valley during the rescue operations," Tirupati Urban SP Ch Venkata Appala Naidu, who also took part in the operations, said.

Explaining the rescue operation to TNIE, Venkata Appala Naidu said that as soon they got information about the mishap, they rushed to the spot along with all the available ropes, water bottles and dragon lights.

"The golden hour is crucial to save a person. We prioritised and searched for those who suffered head injury, aged and those in deep shock and lifted and shifted them to hospital for immediate treatment support," the SP elaborated.

The task was not so easy for them. "At least four to six police personnel had to assist in lifting those individuals whose limbs either got fractured or completely cut from the feet valley to the road. Some individuals were lifted after they were tied to the police personnel shoulders like a 'Dholi'," the SP explained.

The rescue operation that started around 10:15 pm continued for nearly three hours while all the injured were shifted to hospital and took five complete hours before the dead bodies too were shifted to hospital mortuary ending the rescue operation during the wee hours of Sunday. The rescue operation was carried out with nearly 100 police personnel that include Special Party, Fire, Red Sanders Task Force, TTD Vigilance and also locals and passersby. "The rescue operation seemed difficult as the terrain was slippery as it was completely filled with a heap of rubble. Initially, the rubble made it quite impossible for us as the terrain was too slippery," Naidu added.

Police, Fire Force personnel and Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling task force conduct a joint rescue operation at Bhakarapeta ghat road in Chittoor district on Sunday | EXPRESS

TALKS ON

# 4 more US firms look to invest in Hyd

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

FOUR US-based companies have promised major investments in Hyderabad during the talks between their representatives and IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao who is leading a delegation to the US to attract capital.

Advent International, one of the largest and longest-serving private equity firms, has aggressive investment plans for Life Sciences and pharma companies in Hyderabad.

This was revealed to Rama Rao during his talks with Advent International's Managing Partner John Maldonado to discuss the company's strategy and plans for the healthcare and pharmaceutical sector in India.

Rama Rao welcomed Advent's investment of ₹1,750 crore in Hyderabad through the acquisition of controlling stakes in Hyderabad-based RA Chem Pharma Ltd and Avra Laboratories. Avra Labs, headquartered in Hyderabad, is engaged in contract manufacturing and research services and speciality active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Slayback Pharma, another company headquartered in New Jersey, announced its expansion in operations in Hyderabad over the next three years by opening a cGMP lab and a manufacturing facility. The company has already invested around US$ 30 million till now in the last five years and is planning to invest another US$ 20 million in the next 3 years.

# Nagarhole tribals seek rights, to hold protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madikeri

TRIBALS residing inside Nagarhole Tiger Reserve will soon hold a massive protest in Kodagu demanding the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. Hundreds of adivasis from across the district are expected to join the agitation.

"The Forest Rights Act was implemented in 2006, but tirbals in Nagarahole have not been given the benefits. Our demands have been ignored despite several protests and submission of memorandums," said KK Thimmu, vice-president of the state Adivasi Tribal Community Forum.

"The Act permits sanctioning of houses to forest dwellers within forest limits. Tribals have submitted the necessary applications for the grant of the forest rights, but they have been denied the benefit for over a decade now," he added.

"Our rights are being denied under the pretence of 'National Tiger Protection Authority' and on the basis of comments from pseudo-environmentalists. Tribals will not relocate from the forest as they share a special connection with the forest," he said.

# FIVE HELD, 102 KG GANJA SEIZED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Koramangala police have arrested a gang of five drug peddlers and seized 102 kg of ganja worth Rs 40 lakh.

Police said the accused were arrested, following a tipoff that they would be coming to Ballari Colony in Koramangala First Block to sell the contraband. Investigations revealed that the accused had purchased ganja from a few villagers of Pushpapura in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district for a lesser price and were selling it to customers in Koramangala, HSR Layout, KR Puram, Begur, and other areas.

"The accused are habitual offenders involved in murder, chain snatching, and drug peddling cases registered in JP Nagar, Madiwala, Adugodi, Koramangala, and Kollegala police stations. We have seized 102.200 kgs of ganja worth about Rs 40 lakh and a two-wheeler from the accused," the police added.

# Schoolboy drowns in lake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 13-year-old boy, who went swimming with his friends, drowned in a lake on the outskirts of the city in Sarjapura police station limits on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Santosh, a resident of Vidyanagar, who was studying in Class 7.

Police said Santosh had gone to school on Saturday, and went to Doddakere lake in Sarjapura with a group of friends after classes. The friends dived into the water and swam for a while, before realising Santosh missing. They searched for him for some time before alerting local villagers about the incident.

"Efforts were made to fish out the body from the lake, but it was dark by that time. On Sunday morning, the body was fished out of the lake. We have taken up an unnatural death case," the Sarjapura police added.

EXPRESS READ

### IIIT student commits suicide over studies

VIJAYAWADA : A second year Nuzvid IIIT girl student attempted suicide by jumping from the third floor of the hostel campus in Nuzvid on Sunday morning hours. According to Nuzvid town police, the student Harika was depressed over getting poor marks in the first year and took the hasty decision.

### Lost candidates 'attacked' in Ganjam

A couple, who unsuccessfully contested the recently-concluded urban local body (ULB) polls in Odisha, were allegedly attacked by a group of miscreants after breaking into their house in Ganjam's Gosaninuagaon in the wee hours on Sunday.

@ CHAMUNDI HILLS

# *Famed sculptor Yogiraj to restore Nandi statue*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

THE Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage has decided to take up the restoration of the Nandi Statue atop Chamundi Hills.

Noted sculptor Arun Yogiraj from Mysuru, whose Adi Shankaracharya statue was installed at the Hindu pilgrim centre Kedarnath, had visited the hills and held inspection of the monolithic statue for restoration.

The monolithic statue of Nandi had developed cracks and it was noticed by N S Rangaraju, member of the expert committee for the development and protection of Mysuru heritage region by the state government, during his visit to the hill around two years back.

A crack is visible on the famous Nandi statue atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru | UDAYSHANKAR S

Later, Rangaraju prepared a report on the cracks and submitted it to the district administration for action to protect the iconic statue. The cracks were found near the thigh and on the lips of the statue.

A few years back, the archeological department had cleaned the statue using high power water jets and chemicals to clear the oil and other deposits that had accumulated on the statue. It was believed that the stone structure was rubbed with coconut oil to prevent it from cracking.

The cleaning of the Nandi statue was done after an archeological expert from Madurai had come to visit the Nandi statue. Based on their suggestions, authorities took up the cleaning of the statue. The cleaning of the statue was done in October 2017.

As abhishekas and pujas were performed for many years and due to the heat of the sunlight, the statue had turned black. Meanwhile, for the past few years, various organisations have also started performing mastakabhisheka to the statue every year.

# Vehicles get free pass as toll gate workers strike

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

FREQUENT strikes by employees of five toll gates in the Salem-Ulundurpet section, Namakkal and Krishnagiri districts have allowed vehicles to pass freely and hit user collection in the past six weeks.

On March 14, a protest by staff of Veeracholapuram (Kallakuruchi) toll plaza demanding reinstatement of sacked employees led to free movement of vehicles in both directions.

After police, revenue and toll plaza officials pacified the workers, the strike was called off. An employee said over 100 toll plaza staff have lost their jobs in Salem, Villupuram, Erode and Namakkal districts after the implementation of the FASTag electronic payment system last year.

He also said the Union government brought in the FASTag system without assessing its impact on toll plaza employees and other aspects. "Most of the employees had worked nearly 10 to 12 hours a day for five to six years. But they were sacked without notice.

More than 20 workers in three toll plazas in Salem-Ulundurpet section were terminated by the management. Our salaries for January and February has also been delayed," said the employee from Veeracholapuram. An employees association had moved labour court against the management's decision, added the association member.

# EDITORIAL

Life is more beautiful knowing that we've taken a loan on death. Even light is treasured more when there is darkness

Kim Namjoon

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## PRIVATE SECTOR AN EQUAL CULPRIT IN EROSION OF WEALTH

The sheer loss of investors' wealth by Anil Ambani-run businesses is astounding. One by one, all his companies are going down the bankruptcy road. After Reliance Communication and Reliance Capital, two more companies—Reliance Infrastructure and Reliance Power—are now facing the same fate, undergoing the rigmarole of the insolvency and bankruptcy process. Both Reliance Power and Infrastructure have informed the exchanges that financial creditors have knocked NCLT doors to start bankruptcy proceedings against them. They have, however, also stated in their regulatory filings that the management of the companies are trying to settle the issue with creditors out-of-court.

One could only pity the investors who reposed their faith in the once corporate behemoth. They are now staring at massive erosion of their wealth. Take for example Reliance Capital, which had a net worth of around ₹17,000 crore in 2017 and today it has a negative net worth of ₹11,000 crore. Its market cap has fallen from ₹82,000 crore to ₹350 crore now, more than 90% drop in investors' wealth. Anil Ambani is not alone, though. There are many others, be it promoters of Essar Steel, Videocon, DHFL, Alok Industries, Bhushan Steel. The cash-burning new-age (technology) companies, which recently got listed, have been equal culprits too. For years we have been told about the 'mythical' power of private entrepreneurship, its efficiency and the value it creates for shareholders. We have been continuously reminded of how government-owned entities have eroded shareholders and taxpayers' wealth, and that privatisation is the way to go for an efficiently-run economy. And while that may be true, we must not overplay the privatisation bit and leave an impression that it is a sure-shot way to success. There are enough examples of failures of privately-run businesses that have collapsed due to incompetence, lack of vision and, in some cases, greed of management.

If we do blame the public sector for its incompetence, we must also highlight the sheer recklessness of private, especially family-run, businesses. If one has any doubts, just check the cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S CRICKET

Last week, one significant piece of cricket news made headlines. The women's equivalent of the Indian Premier League (IPL) could start in 2023. Right now, the BCCI have reportedly put out feelers, taking temperatures to see if there's an appetite among the existing men's franchises. Three have replied in the affirmative and a few others are expected to reply positively. If and when—and when seems more probable—teams firm up their interest and there is an official announcement from the Board, it will be a watershed day for women's cricket in India. It's fair to say that they have been at the receiving end of some step-motherly treatment, but this is a hugely positive development for two main reasons.

Sure, the influx of money, sponsorships and recognitions will follow but it will convince girls that cricket can be a lucrative career choice if they are willing to put in the hard yards. More importantly, it will make the team a better outfit and enable them to respond better to pressure situations. Young players will get the opportunity to learn from the likes of Meg Lanning and Deandra Dottin. Just the exposure of having a guaranteed set of games every year will do these players a world of good. Take this example. Out of the squad that went to the World Cup in New Zealand, only five have played in T20 leagues. An Indian league will automatically expand the talent pool apart from bridging the gap between the best Indian players and the best ones from Australia, England and South Africa. Australia and England have dedicated women's meets while South Africa's women's players have the most experience in playing in overseas leagues.

The bottom line? The leagues work when it comes to giving players the necessary experience in handling white-ball pressure in the international arena. With West Indies and Pakistan announcing standalone franchise leagues for women, it's good that the BCCI are finally willing to do what could have been done a few years before. However, better late than never.

MPs can recommend a maximum of 10 admissions to Kendriya Vidyalaya every academic year. But this power is most often misused and its benefits are not for everyone to enjoy

## KV ADMISSIONS AND THE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION

SOUMYADIP SINHA

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

Power loves the exercise of discretion. The powerful do what they like under the cloak of discretion. Grant of telephone and gas connections, and allotment of petrol pumps were, at one time, part of the discretionary largesse by those in power. When demand far exceeds supply, in the absence of norms, exercise of discretion is inevitable. Time and again, such exercise of discretionary power resulted in favouritism and occasional corruption. Frequently, courts had to intervene and develop norms to set right aberrations and regulate the exercise of discretionary power.

At the same time, in the implementation of statutes, rules and by-laws, some element of discretion is necessary. The complexity of ground realities and prevailing diversity across India requires exercise of discretion to suit the circumstances in which citizens find themselves. But when it comes to distribution of largesse, more often than not, discretionary power is exercised based on personal predilections and is therefore suspect.

Like other discretionary quotas, that of the human resources development minister and Members of Parliament (MPs) for admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) has often led to controversies. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) was established on 15 December 1963 for the children of Central government employees, including those from the defence services, to help them receive quality education. The rationale perhaps was that children of these employees, on transferable jobs, should have access to the KVs wherever located. There are 1,248 KVs spread across 25 regions in India, where over 14 lakh students study. These KVs are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). KVs accommodate students in the general category as well as in reserved categories besides single-girl child, differently-abled and children of fallen armed forces personnel. Their education is subsidised and the demand for admission to these schools, given their quality, has increased exponentially over the years.

A quota for the HRD minister with the right to nominate admissions was first introduced in 1975. But over the years, both MPs and the minister seem to have developed a sense of entitlement for distributing this discretionary largesse, without any reference to norms. Under the KVS Special Dispensation Admission Scheme (MP Quota), MPs both in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend a maximum of 10 admissions every academic year.

Once, between 1975 and 1995, admissions under the discretionary quota rose to as high as 15,000. In 1998, the then HRD Minister Murali Manohar Joshi recommended 1,700 admissions, well over the prescribed limit, out of which 730 were accepted. In fact, during Arjun Singh's time, the discretionary quota had been raised to 1,200, but with more stringent selection criteria. Till 2010, MPs could nominate only two students every academic session but after the Right to Education Act, 2010, I, as the then HRD minister, scrapped it in order to make the system more transparent and bring in greater meritocracy in admissions. Unfortunately, because of the opposition both within and outside my party, I had to restore such nominations though I relinquished my own quota. Under pressure and realising that my choices were limited, I increased the MP's discretionary quota from two to six nominations for every MP.

Smriti Irani, within a year of her becoming HRD minister, increased the MPs discretionary quota to 10 admissions. This move alone reserved close to 8,000 KV seats.... Irani recommended over 5,000 students for admissions in 2015–16, grossly exceeding her quota of 450

In 2014, however, Smriti Irani, within a year of her becoming HRD minister, increased the MPs discretionary quota to 10 admissions. This move alone reserved close to 8,000 KV seats. She also moved to increase the minister's discretionary quota to 1,500. Irani recommended over 5,000 students for admissions in KVs in 2015–16, grossly exceeding her quota of 450. In 2016–17, the number rose to 15,065 recommendations. The KVs admitted 3,500 in the first instance and 8,000 later.

Prakash Javadekar, the HRD minister in 2016, recommended a mammoth 15,492 admissions under the quota for the academic year 2017–18. These quotas burdened KVs across the country, which already admit more than 1,50,000 children on an annual basis.

I can understand the sentiments of the MPs, who have to cater to the needs of their constituents. Admissions to quality institutions are perhaps a priority with every family and, therefore, the discretionary quota in the hands of MPs is one way of helping out some families. It is also a way to seek the support of key constituents who will go a long way in the MPs' endeavour to get re-elected. The problem, however, is that those who have no access to MPs and have no clout within the constituency are seldom benefited by this discretionary quota. Besides, the discretionary quota limit of 10 nominations results in constituents who, while being aware of the discretionary quota, lose out on being beneficiaries and in that process, feel left out and resentful as their children are not accommodated. There are some instances where this quota is often misused and those recommending admissions to the minister and MPs benefit in the process.

The discretionary quota of the minister was even more problematic since it was more often than not used for political support. A minister who wishes to retain such discretion should frame a stringent law for its exercise. That too is not an ideal solution. It has recently been reported that the HRD minister's discretionary quota has been scrapped from the 2021–22 academic session and recommendations made by Union ministers have also been done away with.

Recently, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan suggested that the government can work towards scrapping the quota earmarked for MPs, provided there is unanimity in the House. He knows that such unanimity will never see the light of day. MPs will be loath to allow their discretionary quota to be abolished. It is here to stay.

*(Tweets @KapilSibal)*

## SILVERLINE PROJECT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR KERALA

K P KANNAN

Development economist & former director, Centre for Development Studies, T'puram

An avoidable controversy is now raging in Kerala when it is going through a harrowing experience in taming the spread of the pandemic. It is due to the unilateral decision of the state government to construct, on its own, a separate railway system based on Standard Gauge by borrowing money, technology and the operating system from a Japanese lending organisation. A group of scholars wrote an open letter to the chief minister (Economic and Political Weekly, 29 January 2022) questioning the wrong developmental priority, the unilateral nature of decision-making and the haste in external borrowing, not to speak of the social and environmental consequences. Given the relevance of similar huge projects to other states, it is important that people outside Kerala should also know about this project, especially the crucial facts and fears surrounding the controversy.

Kerala's efforts in restoring the environmental damage caused by the two great floods is still going at a snail's pace. There is hardly any reporting of the progress made. As for developing Kerala's well-connected transport system (by road, rail and air), there exists several cost-effective alternatives including strengthening the existing railway system as well as the once-vibrant, but currently dilapidated, inland water transport. The proposed SilverLine is tantamount to erecting a new standalone Kerala Railway System without the advantage of interoperability with the Indian railways.

Has the state government got so much public finance capacity to indulge in such huge projects? The answer is a clear no. Kerala is one of the few states with a consistent record of both revenue and fiscal deficits for the last 38 years. From the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, the state government collected a revenue of ₹12.4 for every ₹100 of state income, which declined steadily to just ₹8.7 by 2020. That works out to around ₹30,000 crores. If the annual remittance is added to the state domestic income, the loss would be more than ₹33,000 crores. But the alacrity with which the state government goes for public borrowing is bewildering, including through an off-budget mechanism that will break the back of the public finance in future. No serious effort is seen to be made to strengthen the tax collection system.

The capital cost of the proposed project, as per the DPR prepared by a foreign consultancy agency, is ₹65,000 crores, equal to 50% of the government's total budget expenditure in 2019-20. The NITI Aayog, after a preliminary verification, had reportedly conveyed to Kerala that the cost will not be less than ₹1.26 lakh crore, i.e. equal to the total expenditure in 2019-20. No explanation for this huge gap has so far been given by the government. Further, the state's record in cost and time overruns in public project construction is mind-blowing. My studies revealed that the average cost overrun in the best-case scenario of electricity projects was 3.8 times the original estimate and in the worst-case scenario of irrigation projects, it is a whopping 25 times! Going by the former, the capital cost of Silverline will end up at ₹2.47 lakh crore as per the DPR and at ₹4.79 lakh crore as per NITI Aayog. Given the estimated 5,000 new jobs that the SilverLine is expected to create, the capital-labour ratio of this project works out to ₹1,300 lakh per employment as against ₹40 lakh per employment in the existing public sector enterprises. What it means is that if the KRail investment is diverted to projects with the capital-labour ratio of public sector units, the employment generation would be 1.63 lakh jobs or 32.5 times that of SilverLine. If the NITI Aayog figure of capital cost is taken, it will be 3.26 lakh jobs.

What about time overrun? "Don't take the past experience, we are changing", that is the refrain from the supporters. If we then take the 'Sreedharan Standard' in executing the Delhi Metro Rail (construction at the rate of 14.3 km per year) it will take 37 years to complete this 530 km long Silverline. However, if one takes the Kochi Metro Rail standard, which was also led by Sreedharan, it will take 127 years, given its record of 4.17 km of construction per year.

The economic rate of return at 24% for SilverLine is found to be worked out by underestimating costs and over-estimating benefits.... Experts feel that the state and its agency, KRail, have been taken for a ride by the foreign consultancy. Why it was preferred over well-known Indian agencies is an open question

The economic internal rate of return at 24% for SilverLine is found to be worked out by underestimating costs and over-estimating benefits. Two examples: no precise costing for railway stations and no costing of the loss of output from lands taken over for the tracks and other construction works plus the buffer zone. Monetising anticipated decline in pollution from road vehicles is included in the benefits but the prospect of change over to electric vehicles in the future is ignored. But the most glaring overestimation is in estimating a daily ridership of 80 thousand passengers whereas the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project estimate is 36 thousand! The methodology deployed for the sample survey of travellers is simply not transparent, except a mention that it was less than a mere 400 persons. The feeling among experts is that the state government and its agency, KRail, have been taken for a ride by the consultancy. Why the government didn't subject the feasibility report and the DPR to an independent vetting and why this foreign private consultancy was preferred over well-known Indian agencies are all open questions.

On the environmental consequences, the less said is better. Many experts including the well-known urban planner K T Ravindran and geoscientist C P Rajendran have already gone on record stating the likely creation of new floodable areas as well as water clogging along the embankments and the new regions for granite mining—all leading to severe environmental degradation. The carbon emission arising from the use of massive quantities of steel, cement and other high energy material is another dimension. On all these issues, the DPR has preferred to maintain a palpable silence.

There is intense opposition in villages and towns through which the SilverLine will ply. When state officials go there for land marking, the opposition is often physical and heartbreaking when women from households come out and loudly lament the loss of their ancestral homes, neighbourhood and their very existential identity. Police contingents accompany the survey team and force the implanting of marking stones. One should not be surprised if this goes out of hand and becomes an avoidable state-society conflict.

The people's science movement led by the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad along with a host of other people's collectives and green movements have placed themselves firmly against this highly interventionist project on social, economic and environmental grounds. This is the movements' second biggest challenge after the Save Silent Valley Campaign started in the late 1970s that evolved into a national and international campaign.

*(kannankp123@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

### Kerala health model

It is not at all surprising that Kerala recorded the lowest incidence of pulmonary TB in the country (Mar 25). It has been a model for the rest of the country in the health sector. A high level of literacy and excellent human development indicators have helped it achieve such a high standard in health.

**N A Joseph, Ettumanoor**

### TN book park welcome

As an ardent book lover, I extend my sincere thanks to TN Chief Minister M K Stalin for his recent announcement about opening a mega 'Book Park' in the state soon. It will not only help bibliophiles purchase books of their choice, but also provide a platform for exchanging ideas, literary conversations, cultural discussions and author meet-ups. Good books shape our thinking, solve our doubts and transport us to different worlds. Just as a whetstone sharpens a sword, books sharpen our minds.

**R Sivakumar, Chennai**

### Shed egos for sake of peace

Ukraine wants a ceasefire and is knocking at the doors of not only NATO countries but also seeking the help of nations like India, Israel, Turkey, France and Japan. But no light is visible at the end of the tunnel. Ukraine leader Zelenskyy, who was under the hope that NATO would help, is now saying that his nation won't apply to join the group. Even though NATO is giving moral support to Ukraine, the group has acted wisely till date fearing a third World War. Both Russian President Putin and Zelenskyy should shed their egos and talk to each other to put an end to this unwanted crisis.

**P K Sreevalsan, Kannur**

### Don't give wrong info

The survey for doubling the mainline railway section between Thanjavur and Villupuram stations was completed in December 2019 itself. But wrong information was presented in the Lok Sabha by the railway minister, who stated that the double line work would be done only after the survey is completed, in response to a question by the Mayiladuthurai MP. Hence, it is prudent for the MP to raise a supplementary query and insist that the work must not be delayed further as the survey is already completed. Giving wrong information in the Lok Sabha is highly condemnable.

**S Sethuraman, Thanjavur**

### Heavily biased

This is with reference to *Time for shaping a new world order* (Mar 28). The opinion expressed seems to be heavily biased towards the West. Russian President Putin had been warning his Ukraine counterpart Zelenskyy for about a year to declare his nation neutral, with no NATO alliance. If he had heeded the warning, the war may not have begun.

**T R Subramanian, Bengaluru**

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**TWEETS OF THE DAY**

**Mehbooba Mufti** @MehboobaMufti
In Kashmir we watch helplessly as young lives are snuffed out. Sadly GOI doesn't seem to care since Kashmiri lives have little value for them

**Sanjay Singh AAP** @SanjayAzadSin
UP has to be removed from intoxication of caste, religion or else our children will not be able to get good education. Shame on this condition of schools

**Devendra Fadnavis** @Dev_Fadnavis
When our Honourable PM aims for 5 trillion dollar economy target, we not only need financial resources but human resources also, that too quality one

# Cops had rejected Birbhum victim's plea

Slain panchayat deputy chief had sought protection in vain; carnage could have been averted if police had acted

**PRANAB MONDAL** @Kolkata

IT has come to light that Bhadu Sheikh, the deputy chief of the TMC-dominated local panchayat in Birbhum's Rampurhat, who was gunned down on last Tuesday, had sought police protection eight months ago which was not entertained. A section of police believes that had Sheikh been given protection, his murder and the subsequent massacre, in which eight people were burned to death, could have been averted.

In a letter to Rampurhat subdivisional police officer Sayan Ahmed, Sheikh had anticipated threat to life after his brother Babar Sheikh was shot dead, and sought police protection.

"My brother was shot dead by miscreants recently. A murder case was lodged with Rampurhat police station and some of the accused were arrested. A few days back, the accused were granted bail and they started roaming around our village. I fear they may kill me like my brother. Being a people's representative, I appeal for police protection," Sheikh wrote to Ahmed on June 8.

CBI officers and forensic experts at the site of carnage in Birbhum district on Saturday | PTI

Forwarding the plea to additional superintendent of police (headquarters) Dipak Sarkar, Ahmed wrote on June 14 last year, "Considering the threat perception of the applicant, one PSO. (personal security officer) may kindly be provided to him." But there was no node from the higher authorities.

"The application of Sheikh should have been taken seriously as his brother was murdered only a few days ago. Police personnel should have verified his threat perception. But nothing was done," said a senior official of the Birbhum district police.

Ahmed, who was sent on compulsory waiting, and Sarkar could not be reached for their comments.

The worst carnage since the TMC government came to power in 2011 was a fall out of Sheikh's murder. As the news of his killing spread, miscreants raided houses in Bogtui and set them ablaze. Seven bodies were found at one house.

The experts of the central forensic laboratory found the lock of the house, from where seven bodies were recovered, was broken before it was set ablaze. "It indicates the assassins barged into the house before assaulting the victims and set them on fire," said a forensic expert.

**PM SPEAKS**

## 'Demand for Made in India goods on rise'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

WITH Indian exports crossing 400 billion dollars this fiscal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the development indicates rising demand for made in India products across the globe. He further attributed the growth in export figures to "hard work" of farmers, artisans, weavers, small entrepreneurs, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector and other professionals.

"I am happy that this power of the people of India is now reaching new markets in every nook and corner of the world. When each and every Indian is vocal for local, it does not take long for the local to become global. Let's make the local 'global' and augment the prestige of our products further," said Modi in his monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat*.

Referring to the government procurement from small entrepreneurs through the Government e-Market (GeM) portal, the PM said that a much more transparent system has been developed through technology and in the last one year, the Government had purchased items worth more than ₹1,00,000 crore through the portal.

"There was a time when only big companies could sell goods to the government. However, the country is changing now; the old systems are also changing," he said.

# Hectic politicking ahead of Assam RS polls

**PRASANTA MAZUMDAR** @Guwahati

THE March 31 elections for two Rajya Sabha seats in Assam will be a challenge for the depleting Congress to keep its flock together.

It is contesting one seat and backed by the minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). BJP and its ally United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) — both components of the state's ruling coalition — are contesting one seat each. The ruling side has the support of Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front.

The Congress needs the votes of 42 MLAs and it claims to have 44 MLAs on its side. Two of them are, however, under suspension. Of the two, one — Sashi Kanta Das — has said he could be sick on the day of the election.

The BJP-UPPL combine has the votes of 82 MLAs, two short of the required number to win both seats. If there is no cross-voting, BJP and Congress will win one seat each. However, some statements and actions of the ruling side have increased the Congress' worries.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma had visited Das recently, much to the chagrin of the Congress. Das is more or less with the BJP. Despite not having the required numbers, Sarma had asserted the ruling coalition would win both seats. But the Congress slammed him as well as Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary for their alleged attempts to resort to horse-trading. On more than one occasion, Daimary said MLAs do not get disqualified for cross-voting — a statement criticised by Pradesh Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah.

"Biswajit Daimary has insulted the Speaker's chair. We have received complaints from our MLAs that he is inciting them for cross-voting," Borah alleged.

# 'India-Maldives cooperation helps create stable Indian Ocean Region'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on Sunday said the partnership of India and Maldives is of great consequence and a real force of stability and prosperity for the Indian Ocean Region.

The foreign minister inaugurated the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE) in the Maldives' Addu city, which happens to be one of India's largest grant-funded projects in the island nation. Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih also attended the inauguration.

The new training centre of the Maldives Police will serve to strengthen the traditions of exchanges and training between the police forces of Maldives and India.

MEA S Jaishankar with President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih | PTI

"India and Maldives share a deep and abiding friendship. Today, our relationship is so full of promises and possibilities for our youth and for our future generations. It is also a partnership of great consequence and a real force of stability and prosperity for the IOR," Jaishankar said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) and the Maldives Police Force to support the upgradation of police infrastructure across the archipelago.

The NCPLE is an apex grant project of Indian government. "We hope that the NCPLE will soon grow into an iconic institution that churns out the best brains and bodies to face the challenges that confront any modern police force," Jaishankar said, adding that India has increased the number of training slots for Maldives at its police academy to eight.

Noting that defence cooperation is another key pillar of India-Maldives partnership, Jaishankar said he would be formally handing over to the Chief of Defence Forces, the Coastal Radar System, which comprises ten radar stations.

## Open doors of legal aid to all: Justice Lalit

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

JUSTICE Uday Umesh Lalit of the Supreme Court and the executive chairman of the NALSA has appealed legal practitioners and authorities to "open the doors of legal aid for unrepresented persons by giving quality legal aid services".

While addressing the judges, lawyers and legal services providers at a state-level conference 'Early access to justice at pre-arrest, arrest and remand Justice' on Saturday, he urged for early access to justice and quality legal aid to the arrested persons.

"At every possible stage the person must have the advantage or the benefit of qualified legal assistance and the legal services authorities are meant to facilitate the said mechanism," he said.

**POWER GAMES**

**SHAHID FARIDI**

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**WAR IMPACT**

**REVIVAL OF RUPEE-ROUBLE TRADE ON THE CARDS AFTER THE US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA**

The sanctions imposed by the United States and NATO nations on Russia after its Ukraine invasion have opened a window for restarting the rupee-rouble trade between India and Russia. Indian businessmen, especially traders and exporters, have had a long and happy run in the earlier avatar of the rupee-rouble trade. Under this bilateral trade, when one country buys a product from another, the value of export has to be matched with imports from that country. India buys large amount of arms and ammunitions from Russia. The payment for these imports is made in roubles. Russia spends these roubles on imports from India. This provides Indian exporters a great opportunity to sell their products in Russia without any competition. There is an escrow type of arrangement made to spend the money in this trade. This trade does not use US dollar and is conducted using a special window. Old timers are already lining up to reap the benefits of this new opportunity. India has already ignored a US advisory and decided to import crude from Russia. Items like fertilizers, newsprint, rough diamonds and a range of raw materials for manufacturers could be imported from Russia. This would also create a huge opportunity for exports from India in items like textiles, pharmaceuticals, etc. Sources said talks between India and Russia for revival of the rupee-rouble trade is in an advanced stage and a deal may be sealed soon. Indian exporters are already planning to fly to Moscow to finalise tie-ups.

**GOLDEN GOOSE**

**DELAY IN LIC IPO SENDS FINMIN BABUS SCRAMBLING FOR NUMBERS**

The finance ministry is frantically reworking numbers as the much-awaited IPO of LIC, a major move the Modi government was banking upon, has been delayed. Since the proceeds of the blockbuster IPO would accrue only in the next financial year, the task at hand for North Block is to fill the gaping hole of ₹60,000 crore that the government was expecting from the IPO. Numbers on GST and IT collections are being updated on a daily basis to make the figure of this financial year presentable to the boss across the street in South Block. Sources said that the front-loading of collections being carried out would result in higher refunds. The finance ministry hopes to be able to manage the payout with yield from the blue chip IPO. But the Russian invasion and market volatility is giving sleepless nights to officials of the North Block.

**EMERGING TREND**

**CONGRESS DECLINE BRINGS REGIONAL SATRAPS TO CENTRE-STAGE**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is arriving in Delhi in the first week of April to inaugurate a new DMK office in the national capital. Invitations have been personally handed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, BJP president J P Nadda and leaders of other parties by senior DMK leader T R Baalu. Sources said that the party office inauguration would be used to launch Stalin on the national stage. Demand for Stalin to play a national role has been raised by many DMK leaders who have praised his ability to organise people and lead them from the front. Earlier, TRS leader K Chandrashekar Rao had undertaken a whirlwind tour of Delhi and some other state capitals. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, too, had made attempts to form a non-Congress front against the BJP. Regional leaders see a great opportunity to lead an opposition alliance against the BJP as the Congress continues to shrink. Sources in the Congress said it would not mind a group of regional parties challenging the BJP in the 2024 general elections if they could come to an understanding on who would lead them.

# Trilateral with Israel & UAE could boost trade to $110 billion by 2030

**YESHI SELI** @New Delhi

THE trilateral of India, Israel and the UAE is likely to get a boost with the upcoming visit of Israel PM Naftali Bennett to India on April 3.

Israel's former ambassador to India Dr Ron Malka, who was instrumental in bringing together this trilateral, is expected to be a part of the Israeli delegation that will come to India with PM Bennett. Malka is now Israel's Director General at the Ministry of Economy and Industry.

The trilateral, signed in May last year, took off with an Israeli company (Ecoppia) providing the technology for producing a water-free robotic solar cleaning technology in India, for a project in the UAE. Ecoppia, which has over 2,700 MW global projects in its portfolio, claims its innovative water-free robots can help arid regions to achieve optimal productivity and save water.

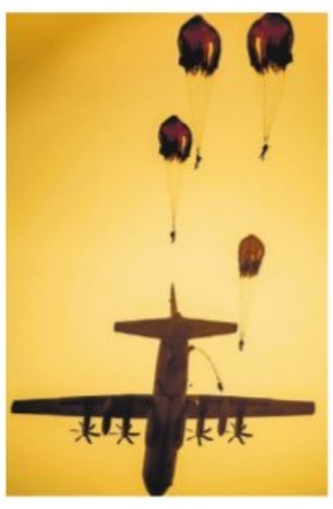
The trilateral was signed in the UAE with the support of International Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (IFIICC).

"The confluence of Israeli technology, manufactured in India and imported from India to UAE for the benefit of its citizens, has potential," Malka had said during the signing of the trilateral.

The trilateral can boost the trade among the three nations to $110 billion by 2030. India with its strengths, UAE with investments and Israel with its technical know-how can bring onboard immense opportunities for innovation and technology.

"This particular tripartite relationship shows tremendous potential, not only for the three nations involved, but also for multilateral cooperation with other countries," according to the MEA.

During a summit February 18, the UAE and India sealed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to increase annual bilateral trade from $60 billion to $115 billion over the next five years.



AFSOD commandos of Indian armed forces conduct an airborne exercise

# Special Operations Division finetunes capabilities

**MAYANK SINGH** @New Delhi

INDIA'S elite Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) combatants have got busy fine-tuning operational procedures and tactics and are carrying out exercises in diverse terrains including Siliguri Corridor, where the simulation included the seizure of enemy objectives by "going behind the enemy lines".

"The integration of the special forces' troops of the Army, Navy and the Air Force is in its mature stage to reach the specialised levels," said a source.

**THE COMBINED FORCE**

AFSOD consists of special forces commandos from the Parachute Regiment of the Army, MARCOS of the Navy and the Garud Commandos of the Air Force

In March alone the Army carried out a couple of airborne exercises covering various terrains including the sensitive Siliguri Corridor. "The exercise involved advanced free-fall techniques, insertion, surveillance and targeting practices and seizing of key objectives by going behind enemy lines," another source said.

"Around 600 paratroopers of the Airborne Rapid Response team carried out drops near the Siliguri Corridor on March 24 and 25," added the source.

The troops of the same division had also conducted an airborne exercise in peninsular India. "The AFSOD practiced their aerial insertion capabilities and rapid response anywhere on the mainland and islands, in an airborne exercise in peninsular India on March 14 and 15," the source said..

Talking about the specialised troops, Lt Gen Vinod Bhatia (retd), a Parachute Regiment veteran, said the exercises help in capability-building and capacity-enhancement. "These specialised troops are important element used to offset the war scenarios by creating decision dilemmas in the enemy hierarchy."

The AFSOD started war-gaming last year on specialised scenarios with an aim to develop common drills and operating procedures.

**MAJOR MOVE**

# *ASI preparing blueprint to revive underwater wing*

**PARVEZ SULTAN** @New Delhi

THE Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started preparing a blueprint to revive its Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW), which has been defunct for about a decade. The development may lead to initiation of exploration projects at two significant sites — Ram Setu, off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, and the submerged ancient city of Dwarka beneath the Arabian ocean in Gujarat, said an official.

Alok Tripathi, an expert in underwater archaeology, has recently returned to ASI as additional director general (ADG) Archeology. He is likely to lead the division.

"Discussions are on at the (culture) ministry level to reactivate the UAW and a draft for the same is being worked upon. ADG Tripathi will be handed over the charge of the department. He was at the helm till 2011-2012. The section was non-operational since his departure. The plans are afoot to launch exploration at Ram Set site but depending on the outcome of the Supreme Court judgment," said the official.

The proposals to conduct archeological investigation at a couple of mythological sites --along the coast in Maharashtra and Odisha and in the Cauvery delta (Tamil Nadu) may also be considered.

According to the ASI, underwater archaeology in India began around 1981. However, the UAW was established in 2001, which was actively engaged in conducting underwater archaeological studies mainly in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The officials said that a recent report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on transport, tourism and culture, submitted to the Rajya Sabha in February has acted as a catalyst in the revival of the Wing.

In its report, the committee had conveyed its displeasure over the defunct UAW.

**EXAMINEE DETAINED**

A candidate was detained from a centre in Gujarat's Mehsana district for allegedly possessing a sheet with answers to questions asked in the forest guard recruitment exam conducted on Sunday

2 LABOURERS KILLED WHILE CLEANING WATER TANK IN MAHA

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 40 | 24 | Mumbai | 34 | 27 |
| Bhopal | 40 | 23 | Panaji | 31 | 26 |
| Jaipur | 39 | 24 | Patna | 39 | 21 |
| Amritsar | 34 | 17 | Lucknow | 40 | 24 |
| Chennai | 37 | 29 | Port Blair | 32 | 26 |
| Kolkata | 35 | 27 | Imphal | 29 | 15 |
| Srinagar | 26 | 08 | Chandigarh | 44 | 23 |

# AAP woos disgruntled Raj Cong, BJP leaders

Hundreds inducted into party at one-day workers' meet in Jaipur; AAP looking to attract big names in desert state

Workers being greeted during the AAP conference in Jaipur on Sunday | EXPRESS

**RAJESH ASNANI** @ Jaipur

THE Punjab triumph has given impetus to the Aam Aadmi Party's 'mission expansion'. While the Arvind Kejriwal-led party's immediate priority is Gujarat, where elections are due later this year, it also has eyes set on Rajasthan, which will go to polls in 2023.

With nearly 18 months in its hands to expand the party organisation in the state, the AAP held a one-day workers' conference in capital Jaipur, where hundreds of people joined the party.

While that was the beginning of the attempt to create a mass base, the AAP has also given an open invitation to disgruntled leaders in the BJP, Congress and the BSP to come and join Kejriwal-led party. The AAP has no well-known face as a leader in Rajasthan and is hoping to attract some big names as it began its preparations for the polls. The party has also decided to reconstitute its Rajasthan unit with fresh and energetic young faces over the next few months.

Announcing that all "good people" were welcomed into the AAP fold, the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said at the conference, "We don't have to stop or get tired now... After Punjab, now our next stop is Rajasthan."

Talking to the media earlier, he claimed that many state leaders of the Congress and the BJP were in touch with AAP. "We have taken care even in the states where assembly polls were held recently that there is no compromise on the image, that the new faces do not carry any baggage. This will be taken care of in Rajasthan, too," Singh said.

Vinay Mishra, MLA from Dwarka in Delhi, has been made election in-charge of Rajasthan. The blueprint is being made to prepare the party for the elections. The AAP's focus will be first on those areas where people are angry with both the Congress and the BJP. Mishra said the two parties – Congress and BJP – had a pact to loot the state alternately. "In the next six months, you will see a change in the work of the party," he said.

**In 2023, you have to conquer Rajasthan. There is no dearth of good people in BJP, Congress and BSP also. Many leaders are upset there. The doors of AAP are always open for good leaders**

Sanjay Singh, AAP Rajya Sabha MP

**Yet to open account in Rajasthan**

In 2018 Assembly elections, AAP contested 148 seats out of 200 in Rajasthan, but could not open its account

The party's vote share in the last elections was just 0.4%

Rajasthan has traditionally voted for the Congress and the BJP alternately with no third party having been able to get a foothold so far

# Won't accept prez post offer: Mayawati

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Lucknow

BSP supremo Mayawati on Sunday asserted that she will not accept the offer of President's post from any party and alleged that the BJP and the RSS had spread false propaganda that she will be "made the President" if BJP comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, misleading her supporters.

In a statement after reviewing the party's humiliating defeat in the state elections, the four-time former chief minister said she is a firm disciple of Kanshi Ram who had also refused the post in the past.

"How can I accept such a post when we know that it will be the end of our party. So I want to make it clear to every BSP office bearer that in the interest of our movement, I will not accept any offer for the post from the BJP or other parties and they should never be misled in future," Mayawati said.

The term of President Ram Nath Kovind ends on July 24.

The BSP chief said she will spend every moment of her life strengthening the party across the country and urged its members not to be disheartened.

"In this election, through a well-thought-out strategy and conspiracy, the BJP, through its RSS organisation has spread false propaganda among our people that if a BSP government is not formed in UP, we will make your 'Behenji' the President of the country. That is why you should allow BJP to come to power," Mayawati said while delving into the reasons for her party's defeat.

"Let alone becoming the President, I cannot even imagine such a thing in my dream. They (BJP) also know that long ago Kanshi Ram ji had rejected this offer and I am his firm disciple," she said.

BSP chief Mayawati during a BSP review meet in Lucknow on Sunday | PTI

# U'KHAND BJP TO 'INTROSPECT' DEFEAT IN 23 ASSEMBLY SEATS

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Dehradun

BJP in Uttarakhand has decided to 'introspect and analyse' the reasons behind defeat in 23 state assembly constituencies in the state including Khatima seat from where Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami contested and lost.

Manvir Singh Chauhan, media in charge of the party in Uttarakhand said, "Senior members of the party have been assigned to travel to the constituencies and submit their reports related reasons of unfavorable results in recently concluded state assembly elections."

However, the party leadership decided to continue Dhami as CM after securing 48 seats in the 70-member state assembly. Party insiders said that the exercise could lead weeding out some party members who are suspected to have helped the rivals.

The seats which will have special attention include Khatima seat from where CM Dhami contested and lost Piran Kaliyar sear where the party candidate lost the deposit and many other seats where the margin of the loss has been below 3,000 votes.

The party will also investigate the reasons for declined vote share in comparison to 2017 elections. In 2017 elections, the BJP garnered 46.51per cent votes with 57 seats while in 2022 elections the party was able to secure 44.34 per cent with 47 seats.

On Marc 21, after 11 days of elections results of Uttarakhand assembly elections, Bhartiya Janta Party chose acting CM Dhami.

Six incumbent MLAs of the BJP have announce that they are ready to vacate their seats for Dhami to contest.

In July last year after Dhami was chosen as the chief minister, many seniors including Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat, Yashpal Arya and Bishan Singh Chuphal were unhappy.

**SECURITY BREACH**

# Youth punches Nitish in hometown, detained

**RAMASHANKAR** @Patna

IN a major security breach, a youth in his early 30s assaulted Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar when he had gone to pay floral tributes to the statue of a noted freedom fighter at Bakhtiyarpur in Patna district on Sunday.

The youth, identified as Chhotu, a resident of Abbu Mohammadpur in Patna, was immediately taken into custody by the CM's security personnel and handed over to the local police for questioning. The incident, however, left officials at the police headquarters red faced.

All senior police officers were tight-lipped over the incident and avoided calls from the media. However, a police officer posted at Bakhtiyarpur said the youth suddenly reached the spot and attacked the chief minister from behind. The incident took place at around 5 pm when Nitish was paying tributes to freedom fighter Kumar Sheel Bhandra. The youth punched his right shoulder from behind before being overpowered.

The local police said the accused appeared to be mentally unsound. "He is being quizzed by senior officers," said a police personnel posted at Bakhtiyarpur.

Bakhtiyarpur happens to be Nitish's *'karmabhumi'*. His father used to practice traditional medicine there and he spent his early childhood there.

The incident has sent shockwaves among Nitish's supporters. But this is not the first occasion when he has been attacked. In October in 2018, a youth shouting slogans against the government's reservation policy threw slippers at the CM when he was attending a function in Patna.

Earlier on January 18 that year, his cavalcade was pelted with stones while returning to Patna from Nandani village in Buxar district.

**IN TURMOIL**

A protester raises a placard while people burn tyres and block the Narwal J&K NH, against the revenue authorities' anti-encroachment drive in Jammu on Sunday | PTI

**EDUCATION**

# MP to be first to offer MBBS course in Hindi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Bhopal

BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to impart medical education in Hindi medium.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Sunday, "This year, MP will become the first state to start the MBBS course in Hindi. The books for the MBBS education in Hindi are being readied and the new Hindi based system will commence. It will soon be followed in engineering education and other professional courses. This new system will help remove inferiority complex among our students from middle class and lower economic class who come from Hindi speaking backgrounds."

The 'CM Sanjeevani Clinic' for urban areas with a housing population of 25,000 will also be launched soon. "The first of such clinics will commence operations from April 22 and within a year every urban local body will have them," said the chief minister.

# Patel slammed for Yogi-Modi remark

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Ahmedabad

"NO one can break the Modi-Yogi jodi (pair), and no one has been able to become the chief minister in Uttar Pradesh for a second consecutive time. This is the first time a BJP chief minister has formed the government in UP for the second time," said Uttar Pradesh Governer **Anandiben Patel** in Gujarat on Sunday

She was speaking after presiding over the earth-breaking ceremony of the Kiran Medical college at Surat district.

Meanwhile, the UP Governor's statement was strongly opposed by the Gujarat Congress. According to party spokesperson Manish Doshi, "Both the Governor and the President of India are constitutional posts and the person holding the post should maintain the dignity of the post. A person sitting in this position, even if he/she belongs to a political party, should do away with political statements."

UP Governer Anandiben Patel speaks at an event in Surat on Sunday | PTI

Incidentally, political analysts are also linking Anandiben's statement with the forthcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Dilip Patel, a political analyst, said, "One thing to remember is that Anandiben is a sharp politician who never states without a reason. After Bhupendra Patel's regime came to power, the clout of Anandiben has increased and anyone here can feel it."

"So her Modi-Yogi account means that she believes that the C R Patil (state BJP chief)-Bhupendra Patel pair will mean similar connotations for the polls in Gujarat," he said.

# Amarnath Yatra from June 30

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Srinagar

AFTER remaining suspended for two consecutive years due to Covid-19, the annual Amarnath *Yatra* to the 3,880-metre high cave shrine in south Kashmir will begin on June 30 with Covid protocols. The 43-day *yatra* will culminate on Rakhsha Bandhan August 11.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SAAB) headed by its chairman and Jammu and Kashmir Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday. The online registration for the *yatra* will start on April 11.

The pilgrimage *yatra* will commence simultaneously from both routes – the traditional Pahalgam track in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and the shorter Baltal route in Ganderbal district in central Kashmir.

It has been decided to put in place a daily route-wise pilgrims ceiling to 10,000, excluding those using helicopters. The board has also decided to extend free-of-cost battery car service for *yatris* at the 2.75-km Baltal-Domel stretch.

The SASB will also enable live telecast of morning and evening *aarti* (prayers) for devotees across the globe.

L-G Sinha called on officials to be proactive and ensure elaborate arrangements for conducting a smooth *yatra* as a large number of devotees are expected.

The government, he said, is introducing an RFID system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being. Sinha directed for sending special invites to *akhada parishads* as well as *acharya parishads* for facilitation of Sadhu and Sant Samaj.

It will be after three years that the Amarnath Yatra will take place this year. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, it was cancelled in 2020 and 2021. It was also curtailed and called off mid-way in 2019 ahead of the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K by the Central government on August 5 that year.

# Axe falls on Bihar minister Mukesh Sahani at BJP's behest

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Patna

VIKASSHEEL Insaan Party (VIP) chief **Mukesh Sahani** will no longer remain in the council of ministers as Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday recommended his removal from the minister's post. Nitish's recommendation was sent to the Governor Phagu Chauhan late in the evening.

Sources said the recommendation was sent by the chief minister under pressure from the top leaders of the BJP.

"This is only formality. Sahani will be removed from the post of the minister for animal husbandry and fisheries resources department. The government will send his consent by Monday," a source in the Bihar Raj Bhavan said.

Earlier in the day, deputy CM and senior BJP leader Tarkishore Prasad wrote a letter to the chief minister requesting the latter to drop Sahani from his cabinet. In his letter, he referred to the joining of all three MLAs of VIP to the BJP.

The three MLAs — Raju Singh, Swarna Singh and Misrilal Yadav — who were elected on the election symbol of the VIP in the assembly elections held in 2020, quit the party and joined the BJP on March 23.

They later met the Speaker of the state assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha and informed him about switching their sides and posing their faith in the leadership of the saffron party.

## IIT staffer to be part of Divyang cricket team

IIT Indore's non-teaching staff Brajesh Dwivedi will be taking part as a member of the Indian Divyang cricket team in the Bangabandhu series T20 tournament organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Association for the physically challenged from March 27 to 31. This four-nation tournament is organised under the aegis of the Paralympic Committee of Bangladesh, in the memory of the father of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Teams from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are participating in this tournament. Brajesh Dwivedi, Senior Assistant at IIT Indore, is part of the Indian team and the only player from Madhya Pradesh.

**BHOPAL DIARY**

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

## Liquor consumption grew despite lockdown

The latest statistics of the MAadhya Pradesh excise department could render a rude reality check to the sustained campaign by former chief minister and senior BJP leader Uma Bharti for total alcohol ban in the central state. As per the statistics, tipplers in the state guzzled liquor, including country-made, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and beer, worth `8,869 crore in 2021-22, which was 7.25% more than the 2020-21 figure of `8,269 crore. The spurt in liquor sales/consumption happened despite the liquor vends across the state were closed due to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in the last year. The maximum jump in consumption was reported in the IMFL segment (13%), followed by country-made liquor (11%) and beer (10%).

## Famous dancing cop to train Ladakh traffic police

Head Constable Ranjeet Singh, the famous dancing traffic cop of Indore, is set to train the newly established traffic police of the Union Territory of Ladakh. He will fly to Ladakh on the request of Ladakh SP (Traffic) Mohd Rafi Giri on April 1 and spend the next five days training the traffic police personnel in Leh and Kargil towns in effectively regulating movement of vehicles in the towns, which witness heavy rush of tourists in summers. Singh, who originally hails from Varanasi, has been the popular face of Indore Police with his inimitable dancing cop style at the country's cleanest city's High Court Crossing over the years.

## Thumbs up to Shivraj as leader for 2023 polls

Speculations of any leadership change in MP have been put to rest by BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, who has long been seen an alternative in case of BJP replacing its longest serving CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. "No decision has been taken by the party for changing leadership in the state, as things stand now the next polls in the state will be fought under the leadership of Chouhan, who is doing a great job as MP CM," Vijayvargiya said recently. The next Assembly poll in MP is slated in 2023. With Chouhan having been used for campaigning in other states, there were speculations about possibility of him being given bigger role in Delhi.

# West needs more courage : Zelenskyy

Ukraine president makes an exasperated plea for fighter jets and tanks to sustain defence

**LVIV**

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the West of lacking courage as his country fights to stave off Russia's invasion, making an exasperated plea for fighter jets and tanks to sustain a defence in a conflict that has ground into a war of attrition.

Speaking after US President Joe Biden met with senior Ukrainian officials in Poland on Saturday, Zelenskyy lashed out at the West's "ping-pong about who and how should hand over jets and other defensive weapons to us" while Russian missile attacks kill and trap civilians.

"I've talked to the defenders of Mariupol today. I'm in constant contact with them. Their determination, heroism and firmness are astonishing," Zelenskyy said in a video address early on Sunday, referring to the besieged southern city that has suffered some of the war's greatest deprivations and horrors. "If only those who have been thinking for 31 days on how to hand over dozens of jets and tanks had 1% of their courage."

Ukrainians who live in Lebanon hold placards against the Russian President at a protest rally in Beirut on Sunday | AP/PTI

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, now in its 32nd day, has stalled in many areas, its aim to quickly encircle the capital, Kyiv, and force its surrender faltering in the face of staunch Ukrainian resistance — bolstered by weapons from the US and other Western allies.

However, Western military aid has, so far, not included fighter jets. A proposal to transfer Polish planes to Ukraine via the United States was scrapped amid NATO concerns about getting drawn into a military conflict with Russia.

"So, who is in charge of the Euro-Atlantic community? Is it still Moscow, thanks to its scare tactics?" Zelenskyy exclaimed as he delivered his pointed remarks. "Our partners must step up their aid to Ukraine."

Britain's defense ministry said on Sunday that the battlefield across northern Ukraine remains largely static as local Ukrainian counterattacks hamper Russian attempts to reorganize their forces. It said Russia's forces looked to be trying to encircle Ukrainian forces directly facing the separatist regions in the country's east.

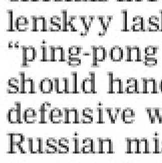
Moscow has claimed that its focus is on wresting the entirety of Donbas region from Ukrainian control. The region has been partially controlled by Russia-backed separatists since 2014. A high-ranking Russian military official said Friday that troops were being redirected to the east from other parts of the country. *AP*

### POPE CONDEMNS 'BARBAROUS' WAR

Vatican: Pope Francis on Sunday condemned the "cruel and senseless" war in Ukraine, where "barbarous" acts were "destroying the future". "More than a month has gone by since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, of the beginning of this cruel and senseless war," the pope said at the end of the Angelus prayer. *AFP*

# US does not seek Moscow regime change: Blinken

**JERUSALEM**



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Sunday President Vladimir Putin's position is "up to the Russians", playing down President Biden's comments that suggested a desire for regime change in Moscow.

Biden's point, Blinken said in Jerusalem, was that "Putin cannot be empowered to wage war, or engage in aggression against Ukraine, or anyone else".

Speaking in Warsaw on Saturday, Biden sparked controversy when he called the Russian leader a "butcher" and added: "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power." That raised questions of whether the United States was advocating non-democratic "regime change" in Russia.

"As you've heard us say repeatedly, we do not have a strategy of regime change in Russia or anywhere else for that matter," said Blinken.

"As in any case, it's up to the people of the country in question. It's up to the Russians," he said. *AFP*

### SIMMERING ROW

Demonstrators take part in the anti-abortion march "Si a la vida" (Yes to life) in Madrid on Sunday. Hundreds of people marched through central Madrid as the Spanish government prepares a law to guarantee access to the procedure at public hospitals | AFP

# Coalition airstrikes pummel Yemen despite three-day Houthi truce

**RIYADH**

THE Saudi-led coalition launched airstrikes on Sunday on Yemen hours after Huthi rebels announced a three-day truce, with the UN chief condemning a surge in violence as the war enters its eighth year.

The raids targeted Sana'a, the rebel-held capital, according to Saudi Arabia's Al Ekhbariya TV, which tweeted "the start of air strikes on Huthi camps and strongholds in Sana'a" around midnight.

The attacks began shortly after the Iran-backed Huthis announced a three-day truce and offered peace talks on condition that the Saudis stop their airstrikes and blockade of Yemen and remove "foreign forces".

Just a day earlier, the rebels had fired drones and missiles at 16 targets in Saudi Arabia, turning an oil plant near Jeddah's Formula One track into a raging inferno as aghast drivers looked on.

The flurry of attacks and diplomacy came as Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, on Saturday marked seven years since the Saudi-led intervention against the Huthis, who seized Sana'a in 2014.

The conflict has killed hundreds of thousands of people directly or indirectly and displaced millions, creating what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday condemned the sudden rise in hostilities. He said that eight civilians, including five children and two women, were reportedly killed in retaliatory strikes on Sana'a following Friday's rebel attacks.

The UN staff compound in the city was also damaged, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the recent escalation of the conflict in Yemen," the statement said, adding that Guterres is "deeply concerned" about reports of coalition attacks on the lifeline port of Hodeida. *AFP*


**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The undersigned advocate submit on behalf of my client **Gopi A S/o. Arumugam** aged about 28 years, R/at No. 153, 6th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560010, have filed the above petition for the death certificate of deceased by name **Sri Arumugam S/o. G. Govindaswamynaidu as he was died on 16-04-1996** at No. 112, 6th Cross, Chamundinagar, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same or appear before the court as below **on or before 13/04/2022 in C Misc. No. 740/2022.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- SHERISTEDAR, COURT OF THE 20th A.C.M.M BENGALURU
**Smt. PAVITHRA R, ADVOCATE**

**IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE**
**G & W.C. No. 5 / 2022 (CCH-60)**

**BETWEEN:- 1. MELVIN EBINIZER.** J S/o late S. John Ebinizer, Aged about 18 years.
**2. THEOPHILUS EBINIZER.** J S/o late John Ebinizer, Aged about 16 years,
Petitioners 1 and 2 are R/a No: 14, 1st D Main, 8th Cross, Sir M.V. Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Opp Mount Carmal School, Bangalore 560016.
**3. CLEMENT MARY** W/o Late S. George, Aged about 56 years, R/a No: 71, 4th Main, 4th A Cross, Riches Garden, Kalkere, Bangalore 560016. **...PETITIONERS**
Petitioner No.2 since minor is rep by Minor guardian (paternal aunt) the Petitioner No.3.
**AND : NILL ...RESPONDENTS**

**DRAFT PUBLICATION**

**WHEREAS..,** we the petitioners have filed the above case to declare Clement Mary the Petitioner No.3 as minor guardian of Theophilus Ebinizer Petitioner No.2 since he is a minor. The deceased John Ebinizer has nominated and appointed his sister Clement Mary as minor guardian to take care and manage the affairs of his sons the Petitioners No. 1 and 2. The deceased John Ebinizer died on 29/04/2021, prior to his death he was working in New Horizon Educational & Cultural Trust and had also contributed to employees provident fund scheme. The said organization has sought for certificate of declaration hence this petition. In this regard any interested person/s are invited to file objections if any. The above case is filed before the Additional City Civil Judge at Bangalore (CCH No 60) and the said mater is posted **on 27/05/2022 at 11:00 am.**

**SCHEDULE**

Provident fund with the employees provident fund organization with PF No: BG/BNG/0011855/3020 and UAN No. - 100323051488, with member id: BGBNG00118550000003020, Claim id No: BGBNG211000002133 wherein 50% of the provident fund amount shall be divided between Petitioners No. 1 and 2.

Given under my hand and seal of this 14.3.2022.

**By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.**

Advocate for Petitioners : **R. LOKESH,** Advocate # 28/2/27 Site No. 27, Opposite Sai Ram School, Somasundarapalya Main Road, HSR Extension, Bangalore - 560 102. Mob: 98456 40787 Email: r.lokeshadv@gmail.com

**IN THE COURT OF 34th ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH.No.35)**
**P & SC.No. 647/2021**

**BETWEEN:** SRI.VINAY SINGH, S/o Late Mr. Arun Singh P.J, Aged about 40 years, Residing at C 403, Akme Ballet, Doddanakundi, Outer Ring Road, **BANGALORE-560 037 ...PETITIONER**
**AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**Under Order 5 Rule 20(1-A) R/w. Sec.151 of C.P.C.**

**1. WHEREAS,** the Petitioner above name filed petition U/s.372 of Indian Succession Act, 1925 before Hon'ble City Civil and Session Judge at Bangalore in P & SC No.647/2021, CCH No.35 seeking to grant Succession Certificate for intestate death of P.J.Arun Singh dated 21.02.2021 father of the Petitioner in respect of the Schedule Properties herein below.

This Court fixed next date of hearing on 13.04.2022. Interested persons may enter appearance on that day and file their objections if any, failing which the matter will be heard and determined exparte as prayed for to grant the Succession Certificate.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY-C1**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property; being residential Property bearing Old PIN / Khatha No. 6-21-136, 136 Coconut Avenue Road, Malleswaram Bangalore-560003, measuring east to west 71 feet (Seventy-One Feet) and north to south 43 feet (Forty-Three Feet), Corporation division No. 1711, allotted Property Identity number PID No.6-21-136, comprising of open land with structures standing there on, Bounded on
East by - Bhagavan Singh P.J Property
West by - Schedule C2 Property
North by - Jayaram Property
South by - Narendra Singh P.J Property.
**Measuring :**
East to West : 71 Feet
North to South : 43 Feet

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY C2**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property; being residential Property bearing Old PIN/ Khatha No. 6-21-136, 136 Coconut Avenue Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003, measuring east to west 27 feet (Twenty Seven Feet) and north to south 37 feet (Thirty-Seven Feet), Corporation division No. 1171, allotted Property Identity number PID No. 6-21-136, comprising of open land with structures standing there on, Bounded on
East by - Schedule C1 Property.
West by - Coconut Avenue Road,
North by - Jayaram Property,
South by - Narendra Singh PJ Property.
**Measuring :**
East to West : 27 Feet
North to South : 37 Feet

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY C3**

Properties situated at Thotadagudada Halli village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Assessment No. 5/1, Previous No. 51, Present No.1571, Kaneshumari No.9, Eastern Portion with house Ground and First Floor bounded by
East - Site No.10.
West - Remaining Western Portion of the site.
North - Property of Muniyappa
South - 20 Ft Road.
Measuring East - West : 20 Ft. and North – South: 30 Ft. Totally Measuring 600 Sq.Ft

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY C4**

Property situated at Chikkaballapura Taluk, Patrenahalli Grama Panchayathi, Kasaba Hobli, No.3532/2009-10, MR No.87/2021-22 vacant Site No.98, measuring East - West: 30 ft, North - South: 20 ft. Totally measuring 600 sq.ft. Bounded by
East - Site No.79; West - 20ft Road
North - Site No. 9; South - Site No.99

**Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on this the 25th Day of March, 2022 at Bengaluru.**

**By the Order of the Court**
Sd/- Assistant Registrar/Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore

**Advocate for Petitioner : (Nandish.B)**
**Advocate, HINDLAWPARTNERS LLP**
Advocates & Solicitors, No.136, 2nd Floor, Singh Building, Coconut Avenue Road, 8th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003 Ph 9342090966
**Place : Bangalore, Date : 25.03.2022**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public are hereby notified and informed that, my client Sri. M. Lokesh, S/o Sri.Mayanna, Aged about 41 years, residing at No.48, 1st Main Road, Jnanaganganagara, Mallathalli, Bengaluru-560056 had purchased a Western portion of the property bearing No.43, formed in Assessment No.42 situated at Jnanaganganagara, Mallathalli Village, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, which comes within the limits of BBMP Ward No. 129-Jnanabharathi from Smt. Fharjana Begum D/o late Abdul Aleem represented by GPA Holder Smt.Lakshmamma W/o Mayanna under registered sale deed dated 16.12.2020 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Office, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru registered as Document No. RJN-1-06054-2020-21, Book No.1, stored in C.D.NO.RJND801. It is further submitted that the property measures East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measures 600 square feet. It is submitted that on 11.03.2022 my client lost the said document while travelling in bus at Srinagara, within the limits of Hanumanthanagara Police Station. If any person/s come in contact of the same or found they may kindly return the same to my client or the below mentioned address. In this regard my client has also lodge a police complaint in respect of the lost of document online which is registered as Lost Report No.0179300/2022 on 11.03.2022.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the Western portion of the property bearing No.43, formed in Assessment No.42 situated at Jnanaganganagara, Mallathalli Village, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, which comes within the limits of BBMP Ward No. 129-Jnanabharathi measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 600 square feet, bounded on:
East by : The remaining Eastern portion of the Site No.43, West by : Property belongs to Syed Basheer, North by : 30 feet Road, South by : Private property.

**K.N. NAGESH,** Advocate
No. 101, 1st Floor, Mamatha Apartment, 'B' Block, 4th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

We, **i) B Rukkamma alias Rukminiamma,** wife of late Sri K V S Ramaswamy, aged about 91 years residing at no. 2613, 37th B Cross, 26th Main Road, 9th block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560 069 and **ii) B Savithri,** wife of late M. T. Mudala Giriappa, aged about 77 years, residing at No.7, Girikrupa, 2nd main road, Sripuram, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020, do hereby notify and declare to the general public as under:

A person named M Chandru, son of late Manchappa aged about 40 years, has been making certain claims that we have allegedly executed a power of attorney dated 31.07.2014 in his favour, pertaining to property bearing no. 176 and 176/1 having PID Nos 094-W0087-3 and 094-W0087-3-1, situated at Natakaratna Gubbiveeranna Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore. We hereby declare that we have never executed any such power of attorney dated 31.07.2014 or any other document whatsoever in his favour pertaining to the above mentioned property or in respect of any other properties. There are no valid powers of attorney executed by us in his name or in the name of any other third parties, except our respective children or grandchildren. All or any such powers of attorney allegedly executed by us or any one of us in favour of Mr. M Chandru is fabricated and concocted and it is hereby notified to the public that no one shall deal with him pertaining to any of our properties including the one mentioned above as he has no right title or interest in respect of our properties or estate. If any such fabricated or concocted powers of attorney are in existence, it hereby stands cancelled and revoked by us. Any person dealing with the said Mr. Chandru or any other third party pertaining to the above mentioned property shall do so at their own risk and consequences.

Without prejudice to the above, we hereby cancel any and all powers of attorney claimed to have been executed in favour of Mr. M Chandru and declare that they shall be no effect or consequence.

**Sd/- 1) B. Rukkamma @ Rukminiamma**
**2) B. Savithri**
*Place: Bangalore, Date: 28.03.2022*

**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II**
**First Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4, Residency Road, BENGALURU-560025.**
**O.A. NO. 880/2021**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**
**STATE BANK OF INDIA,**
RACPC, Koramangala
BENGALURU **...APPLICANT BANK**
**AND:**
**1. MR. CHANDAN .R.GUNAGI, S/O RAGHURAM GUNAGI;**
**2. M/s. SHRI MANJUNATHA SWAMI DEVELOPERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PVT.LTD., ...DEFENDANTS**

**SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RDB ACT. 1993 (as amended)**

To,
**M/s. SHRI MANJUNATHA SWAMI DEVELOPERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PVT.LTD.,** Represented by its Directors
**CIN: U45200KA2012PTC065279**
**WEBSITE: WWW.SMDINFRASTRUCTURE.COM**
REGD.OFF: No.21/A, 2ND FLOOR, 7TH MAIN, 80 FT ROAD, KORAMANGALA I BLOCK, BENGALURU-560034
(as Developer and GPA Holder of Owners) : **...Defendant No.2**

Whereas the Applicant has instituted an Application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended), against the Defendants for a sum of **Rs.35,26,490/-** as mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other reliefs. You are hereby requested to show cause within 30 days of the publication of Summons/notice or **on 24/06/2022 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal on this **14th day of March, 2022.**

**By order of the Tribunal**
**Sd/-Registered**
**Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru-560001.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client intends to purchase the schedule mentioned properties, situated at **Rampura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.** Any rival claimants, financial institutions, individual have any claim/objection, are requested to file their claim/objection ***within seven days*** from today, with documentary evidence, if any.

**SCHEDULE**

**1. Sy. No.108/8 – 0-20 G,** of **S. Abhishek:**
**E:** 108/4 Vishakantaiah;
**W:** 108/2 Chinnamare Gowda;
**N:** 108/2, Shivananjappa; **S:** Road.
**2. Sy. No.108/2 – 0-24 G,** of **Kapini Gowda & son;**
**E:** 108/4 Vishakantaiah;
**W:** 108/1: Mare Gowda & Chinnamare Gowda
**N:** 107/2, Kapini Gowda & son;
**S:** 108/8, Abhishekh.
**3. Sy. No.107/2 –1-06 A,** of **Kapini Gowda & son;**
**E:** 107/3- Vishakantaiah;
**W:** 107/1 Vishakantaiah:
**N:** Govt. Land;
**S:** 108/2-Kabini Gowda & son.

Sd/-
**N. RAJANNA, *Advocate*,**
Office at No.36, M.K.S. Arcade, Bellary Main Road, Ganganagar, Bengaluru -560 032. Mob:9845543701

**BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I AT BENGALURU**
**O.A.No.486/2020**

Between,
**CANARA BANK ...Applicant**
**AND:**
**M/s. OMKAR MOTORS & OTHERS ...Defendants**

**SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANTS No.1 and 3**

Whereas the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.64,17,003/- (Rupees Sixty four Lakhs Seventeen Thousand and Three only)** by directing the defendants No.1 to 3 to pay the same jointly, severally and personally together with current and future interest at the rate of 12.15% per annum compounded monthly rest from the date of the application to till realization of the amount and other relieves.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **06/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relieves prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of the Tribunal on this **22 day of March, 2022**

**BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL**
**Sd/- REGISTRAR**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**

**Defendants:**
**1. M/s. OMKAR MOTORS,** No.15/1, Trupthi Plaza, 6th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072. A Partnership Firm Represented by its Partners Sri.J.K.Puttarame Gowda, and Sri Naga, Bengaluru-560072.
**3. Sri NAGA,** S/o. Sri Maranna, Aged Major, Partner of M/s.Omkar Motors, No.17/2, 13th 'C' Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru -560079.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT I**
**NO. 4, JEEVEN MANGAL BUILDING, RESIDENCE ROAD, BANGALORE**
**O.A.NO. 1411/2019**

**M/s. HDFC Bank Limited ...Applicant**
**And:**
**Mr. Darshan. B ...Defendant**

**SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

To,
**Mr. Darshan. B,** Son of Mr. Brahmanand, Residing at: Flat No.006, Sumukha Green Ville, No. 138/6, Sarvabhowma Nagar, Bilekahalli, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore-560076.
**AND ALSO AVAILABLE AT: -**
Residing at:- No. 35, 2nd A Cross, Sunshine Layout, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore-560036.
**AND ALSO AVAILABLE AT:** - Working at Posh No. 81-13/2, 1st Floor, Hulimavu, B.G. Road, Opposite Meenakshi Mall, Bangalore-560076.

**Where As:** The Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 against you the above Defendants for recovery of **Rs. 24,19,230.91/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Lakh Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Paisa Ninety One Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You the above mentioned Defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through your counsel and produce relevant documents in your defense and show cause **on 14/06/22 at 10.30 am** and as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of non appearance the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Give under my hand & the seal of the tribunal on this **18TH Day FEBUARY of the 2022.**

**Sd/- By order of the Tribunal**
**The Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore**

**IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I**
**LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4, Residency Road, Opp. Cash Pharmacy, Near Bishop Cotton Boys High School, Bengaluru-560025.**
**O.A. NO. 1155/2020**

**Between:**
**HDFC BANK LTD., ...APPLICANT**
**AND:**
**WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM ...DEFENDANTS**

**NOTICE ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

To,
**WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM,**
230/220, Villa No.2C, Rahat Gardenia, Outer Circle, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066.
**Mobile No.9176897358,**
Mail Id: ewilliampaul@gmail.com.
**Also at: WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM,**
Villa 2C, Rahat Gardenia, Outer Circle, Near Whitefield Post Office, Bangalore-560066.
**And Also at:** WILLIAM PAUL ERRAM,
ITPL Sez Unit, VII 2nd Floor, Voyager Building, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066.
**Mail Id:** william.erram@photoninfotech.net

Whereas: the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the above defendants for the recovery of sum of **Rs.24,59,115/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen Rupees Only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly instructed in support of their defense to show cause **on 02/06/2022 at 10.30 a.m.** as why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal on the Tribunal on this **19/2/2022.**

**By order of the Tribunal**
**Sd/-Registrar**
**Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore.**

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**KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,ALBC Division, Almatti.**
**Tq: Basavan Bagewadi, Dist: Vijayapur. Phone No: 08426-281044**

No: KBJNL/ALBC-Dn/DM/TND/SCP-TSP-Budget head Roads/2021-22/2850 Dated: 23.03.2022

**ADDENDUM/CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION**
**(Through E-Procurement Only)**

Vide this office tender Notification No: No: KBJNL/ALBC-DN/DM/TND/SCP-TSP-Budget head Roads/2021-22/2670 Date: 25-02-2022, tender for **18 packages** were invited. Due to unavoidable reasons the calendar of events are rescheduled as below.

| Event of Tender | Previous dates | Modified dates |
|---|---|---|
| Access and Submission | 03.03.2022 to 19.03.2022 up to 5.00 PM | 25.03.2022 to 06.04.2022 up to 5.00 PM |
| Pre-bid meeting | 11.03.2022 at 11.00 AM | 31.03.2022 at 11.00 AM |
| Opening of cover-I (Technical bid) | 21.03.2022 at 11.00 AM | 08.04.2022 at 11.00 AM |
| Opening of cover-II (Financial bid) | 28.03.2022 at 11.00 AM | 13.04.2022 at 11.00 AM |

**The rights of acceptance/rejection of tender at any time, without giving any reason had with undersigned. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from** http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam **and** www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in **and can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti.**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/613/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2021–22

**NATRUST NATIONAL TRUST HOUSING FINANCE LTD**
Bangalore Branch : No:61, DVG Road, 1st Floor, (Above Sesha Matching Centre), Bangalore - 560004. Ph No.080-32217277.

**DEMAND NOTICE : Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asserts and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.**

You, the under mentioned borrower/ mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

| Sl No | Name of the Borrower / Guarantor | Loan Account No, Date of Demand Notice / Amount Due |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Applicant : Ramaswamy.** No.575/A, 2nd Main Road, 5th Cross, Behind Sumathi Kalayna Mantapa, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore - 560021. **Co-Applicant 1 : Arun Kumar R** No.E-2, E-Block, Vimsa, 3rd Stage, 1 Block, WOC Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore - 560079. **Working Address : M/s Embassy Public School, Desg : Floor Manager** Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560091. **Co-Applicant 2 : Glory,** No.E-2, E-Block, Vimsa, 3rd Stage, 1 Block, WOC Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore - 560079. **Working Address : M/s Embassy Public School, Desg : Assistant Mistress** Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560091. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR02020100094, 27.11.2021 & Rs.14,71,080/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Eighty Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that the piece and parcel immovable property measuring East to West 20-0 feet and North to South 32-0 feet bearing BDA Site No.2003, 3rd Stage Rajajinagar Extension Bangalore Present BMP No.75, PID No.24-66-75, Old 12th Cross New 12th Main RGI Colony, 3rd Stage, Rajaji Nagar, BMP Ward No.24, Bangalore and the said property called the schedule -1, property bounded as hereunder bounded on by : **East by :** Road, **West by :** Property No.2004, **North by :** Property No.2002 and 2005 and **South by :** Conservancy Lane. Measuring East to West 20-0 feet and North to South 32-0 feet, Totally 640 Sq.ft with Structure standing thereon and to be built by thereunder. | |
| 2. | **Applicant : Umashankar** #896, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, 9th Main, BEML 4th Stage, Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bangalore 560 096, Karnataka. **Working Address : Shriram Transports Designation : Deputy Production Manager,** K.H.Road, Bangalore 560 027 **Co-Applicant - Kavitha V M** 896, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, 9th Main, BEML 4th Stage, Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bangalore 560 096 **Working Address - BGS Global Hospitals Designation :** Nurse, Kengeri Main Road, Bangalore 560 056 **Guarantor 1 : Munikishore C Relationship with Applicant :** Friend Shamanna Garden Near Guntur Mess, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560078. **Working address : Shriram Equipment Finance Co. Ltd Designation/Line of Business : Sr. Executive** Bangalore 560021. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR02020100509, 27.11.2021 & Rs.9,86,238/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** **Schedule A -** All that property piece and parcel of property bearing portion of the Large extent of the property bearing no.2 HMT Layout, Peenya Village, Yeshwanthapura Corporation division 1/2, Bangalore 560 022 (Earlier comprised in Sy No.47 & 48, Peenya Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bangalore) on which multi-stored complex comprising of several block are constructed in the name of Platinum City Project & the Land beneath and said O Block measuring East to West Mtrs. North to South 76.57 mtrs. in all 255.15 ft.in all measuring 5972.46 sq.mts (64.254.11 sq.ft) and bounded as under **East by :** B Block of the Platinum City Project, **West by :** Bharath Fritz Werner Factory, **North by :** Open space of the Platinum City Project, **South by :** Open space of the Platinum City Project **Schedule B -** (Undivided interest in Land Being Conveyed) - 85.80 Sq.ft. Undivided Share of Land in "O" Block of the Project known as Platinum City bearing No.2, HMT Road, Peenya Village, Yeshwanthapura Corporation Division No.1/2 Bangalore 560 022 (schedule-A property) **Schedule C -** (Apartment herein above referred) - All that piece and parcel of the Flat bearing No. S-816, situated on the 7th Floor, Phase 1 of "O" Block of Platinum City, Constructed on the schedule A Property, with a super built up area of 525 sq.ft comprised of single bed room with attached bathrooms halls and kitchen and in the areas of common use and the said Property called Schedule C. | |
| 3. | **Applicant : Ravikumar B. S Co - Applicant 1 : Usha Both are at :** No.16, Nagamathapura, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Hosur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore - 560100. **Applicant Working Address : M/s OPTO Circuits India Pvt Limited** #83, Electronic City, Hosur Main Road, Bangalore-560100 **Guarantor : Mani Maran** #14, Laxmi Illam, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli (PO) Bangalore - 560013. **Working Address :** M/s OPTO Circuits India Pvt Limited #83, Electronic City, Hosur Main Road, Bangalore-560100 | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR02020100411, 26.04.2021 & Rs.7,39,823/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that property piece and parcel of property bearing No.16, Assessment No.1, Old Khatha No.116/1, New Khatha No.214/1, Naganathapur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bounded on the : **East by :** Site No.17, **West by :** Site No. 15, **North by :** 20 Feet Road, **South by :** Site No .9. | |
| 4. | **Applicant : Shyamala Shetty** # 149, 3rd Main Basaveshwara Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560040, Karnataka. **Working Address :** M/s Vinod Interior Decoraters Pvt Ltd Kammanaiialli Main Road, Opp Sri Sagar Hotel, St Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560 084 **Co- Applicant : Nithyananda M S** # 149, 3rd Main, Basaveshwara Layout, Vijayanagan 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560040, Karnataka. **Guarantor : Venkatesan** No.271/B, M.G.Railway Colony, Railway Qrts, Bangalore. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR02020100332, 29.04.2021 & Rs.3,90,974/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.19, Khata No.151/2, Kittanalialli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, under the limit of Kittanahalli Village Panchayat, measuring East to West 40 feet, north to South 30 Feet, in all 1 200 Sq.ft along with building constructed therein and bounded on the : East by : 25 feet Road, **West by :** Site No.34, **North by :** Site No.18 and **South by :** Site No.20. | |
| 5. | **Applicant : Vasu Govindaswamy** No.11, 7th Indira Gandhi Main Road, A Narayanapura Bangalore - 560016 **Working Address : M/s. Army Base Workshop Designation :** Sr Technician Old Madras Road , Ulsoor Bangalore - 560018 **Co-Applicant : Krishnaveni** No.11, 7th Indira Gandhi Main Road, A Narayanapura Bangalore - 560016. **Working Address : M/s. R B Education Society Designation :** Senior Head Teacher Infant Convent School, Udaya Nagar, Bangalore-560016. **Guarantor : B Manjunath** No.6-57/1B, Shanthi Nagar, DV Nagar, Bangalore-560016. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR10319, 17.06.2021 & Rs.8,62,409/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Nine Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that piece and parcel of the property, bearing No.12, Katlia No.268/1, Property Nos 93/1, and 93/4, situated at Kaggadasapura Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Comes under the limits of BMP Ward No.83, now comes under the line its of BBMP, Bangalore, Banaswadi Sub Division, Bangalore subsequent No : 268/1, Present No.268/1, BMP PID No.83-54-265-1 New and the said property measuring to East to West 30 (Thirty) feet and North to South 40 (Forty) feet and totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft and bounded on the **East by :** Site No : 11, **West by :** Property of Sri.Kitappa, **North by :** 20 feet Road, and **South by :** Site Nos 17 & 18. | |
| 6. | **Applicant : Muniyappa Guruppa, Co - Applicant 1 : Lakshmi Muniyappa, Co - Applicant 2 : Munivenkatamma Guruppa. All are at :** No.13, NGR Layout, Roopena Agraharaa, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068 **Applicant - Working Address - M/s. Vijaya Timbers Depot Designation :** Supervisor No : 4/10, Hosur Road, Next to ICICI, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068. **Guarantor 1 - Hemanth Kumar** No : 655, Huskuru Ciricle -Kudlu, Anekal, Bangalore - 560068 **Working Address : M/s Money Care Square, Designation :** Senior Back Office No : 5861/51, 1st Floor, 10th Cross, Kanakpura Main Road, Jayanagar, 7th Block, Bangalore - 560 082. **Guarantor - 2 - Preetham Kumar** No:124, 3rd Cross, Gowdana Palya, Bangalore - 560061. **Working Address - M/s. Business Edge Solutions.** Opp : Netvadhama Bus Stop, 1st Floor, Kanakpura Road, Bangalore - 560082. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR2020101160, 26.04.2021 & Rs.7,01,129/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs One Thousand and One Hundred and Twenty Nine Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.4, Khata no.42/5, Situated at Haralakunte Village, Begur Hobli, presently which is coming under Bommanahalli Nagarasabhe Limit, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft and said premises are bounded on the : **East by :** Private Property, **West by :** Vendors Property, **North by :** Road and **South by :** Chinnapa Reddy's Property. | |
| 7. | **Applicant : Keshavan G Co - Applicant - 1 : Manikandan Co - Applicant - 2 : Prabhu K Co - Applicant - 3 : Sharadha All are at :** #28/C, St. John Road, Slum Board Quarters, Sivan Shetty Gardens, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 42. **Co - Applicant - 1 - Manikandan Working Address : Sai Sakthi Enterprises Designation :** Machine Operator # 4 Kodanda Rama Temple Street, Subbanna Palya, Banaswadi Main Road, Bangalore - 560033. **Co - Applicant - 2 - Prabhu K Working Address - Sai Sakthi Enterprises Designation :** Office Assistant H M Geneva House Unit No.201, 2nd Floor No14, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560052. **Guarantor - Chandrashekar C** Relationship With Applicant : Friend No.1, 3rd Cross, Thimmaiah Road, Bharathi Nagar Bangalore - 560001. **Working Address : Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike Designation / Line of Business :** Gangman NR Square, Bengaluru - 560002. | **Housing Loan A/C No. BLR02020101587 & BLR02020102043, 25.01.2022 & Rs.9,77,327/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Severity Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Seven Only) and Rs.5,97,276/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Six Only)** |
| | **Description of Properties** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Southern portion of site No.3, formed S no.213 situated at Bangalore Now bearing New Corporation no.3, Muniyalappa Garden, PSK Naidu Road, Cox Town, Bangalore Measuring Eastern side 15 Feet and Western side of 15 feet, totally 570 Sq.ft. , the schedule property consisting of 5 Square of Ac shed, with Red oxide flooring, Jungle wood doors without any amenities, presently within the jurisdiction comes under Halasuru Senior Sub- Register. For this within the boundaries are hereunder :- **East By :** Road, **West By :** Site No.08, **North By :** Remaining portion of Property 3 and **South By :** Site No.2 | |

Date : 28.03.2022
Place : Bangalore
For National Trust Housing Finance Limited
Authorised Officer

# WHY 'PAY YOURSELF FIRST' IS NOT JUST A PHRASE

RAJAS KELKAR

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

THEY say that it is 'the' phrase in personal finance. 'Pay yourself first' is the first thing any financial advisor would tell you.

However, it is not just a phrase. It is an action plan. Paying yourself first does not mean spending money. It means providing for spending money in the future.

When you are young, your income may not be sufficient to meet all your wants at that time. However, your 20s are the most important phase in your life from an investment and savings standpoint.

### Beginning at 25

Let us say you start your investment journey at the age of 25. You are earning enough to pay for your expenses and can manage to put aside at least Rs 10,000 per month for your future.

If you look at the 20-year track record of the BSE Sensex, it has multiplied about 15 times every 20 years.

In 1982, it was around 218, and then in 2002, it was 3200 and today it is approximately 58,000. Assuming a similar multiplier effect, the S&P BSE Sensex could be 8,70,000 by 2042.

In the first phase of 20 years, the Sensex clocked a compounded annual growth rate or CAGR of 14.38%, while in the second 20-year phase to 2022, it clocked a return of 15.59%.

If you are 25 years old today and start investing ₹10,000 a month in an index fund or an exchange-traded fund that tracks the S&P BSE Sensex or Nifty, you may more or less generate a similar return over the next 20 years.

At a 14% average return, it would be around ₹1.3 crore. You can cash that amount when you turn 45 and put it in a monthly income plan.

If you hold on to the money for another five years or so, the magic of the power of compounding will take your returns to twice that amount.

Even if you assume a lower rate after 25 years, you will get more than ₹2.2 crore in the bank.

That is an excellent amount to generate a pension or a second income.

While it is quite hard to say that if the past performance could be repeated, there is an expectation about the profit growth of Indian companies. Benchmark indices like the Sensex and the Nifty are made up of top-rung companies, which are expected to outperform the overall economic growth.

If India's GDP is expected to grow by an average of 7% over the next 20 years, these top run companies are expected to grow at twice that rate. Share prices usually tend to follow the profit growth of underlying companies.

The route to that milestone is in upward and downward cycles.

The work-life phase between 25 and 50 is when you need to provide for your future self. You may think it may not be such a big task to put aside ₹10,000 each month.

That is the money you do not touch even in an emergency. If you can manage to set aside more than this, you can target quitting a regular job at even 45 to pursue your dreams.

### Bumpy road

The path to that goal could be bumpy. You could face emergencies and see your savings or investments vanish in no time. You will spend money on important events in life like marriage, buying your own home or supporting your child's education.

You will spend a lot of your income on either the repayment of your home loan or an education loan. You will also travel more when young for work and leisure and maintain a lifestyle suitable to your income. There are good things that may happen to you too. If you do well at work, you may generate bonus income regularly. You could inherit wealth from your parents. Instead of spending the money that you get suddenly; you could put it in your corpus. That way, you may end up generating your second income early. That could expedite your plan to retire early from your regular job.

You may continue working even when your second income starts if you enjoy your work. However, if your wish to pursue any other career, the dual-income can enable you to leap.

Your dreams need to be your financial goals.

*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

# Stocking gold amid wars, inflation

Stock market mavens suggest allocating greater part of portfolio to gold than in the past

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

SHOULD paper gold - ETFs & SGB - be part of an investor's portfolio as stocks turn volatile, buffeted by rising oil and geopolitical tensions? If so, how much should be allocated to it?

Conventional wisdom suggests that it should be, but wealth managers and market experts recommend higher apportionment from the 5-8% earlier to 10-15% and to even a fifth, given recent geopolitical tensions, fears of new Covid variants and spectre of rising inflationary expectations in the US, India and other parts, raising the probability of its testing a record high past ₹56,000 per 10 gm hit in August 2020 in the wake of the Pandemic.

Gold once again caught Indian investor fancy since February, on rising inflationary expectations with the US Central Bank raising a key interest rate in March, its first in four years, and culminated in it hitting a 20-month high in Indian rupees earlier this month in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which saw stocks plummet globally.

The yellow metal surged to ₹54,066 per 10 gm (prices exclude GST) on March 9, its highest since the peak of ₹56,029 on August 7, 2020, as per trade body India Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA).

And though the price has since cooled to ₹51,684 on March 25, further escalation in Eastern European tensions, expectations of more rate hikes this year by the Fed - which will pressure the rupee - after its 25 bps hike earlier this month, and the onset of the marriage season in India could keep prices on the boil.

Hardening interest rates globally typically lead to outflows from emerging market equities and debt as the cost of money in the West rises, reducing the spread between the returns here and the cost of money plus the currency hedging costs a foreign investor faces. This, along with higher inflation, puts pressure on the local currency, which raises the price of gold for its holders.

Both gold and the benchmark Nifty index trade around 8.5% below their peak highs, but stock market mavens suggest allocating greater part of portfolio to gold than in the past.

"We are bullish gold," said Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC. "We believe post Russia sanctions, China and other large holders of FX reserves will diversify into gold. This will create additional demand for gold and support the gold prices. The best way to invest gold is via SGB (sovereign gold bonds). Next best is gold ETF. Gold is an offshore asset class also for India."

Shah recommends an investor allocating 10-15% to paper gold. Gold has appeal as a safe haven, as during conflicts like the Russian - Ukraine one, and is also used as a hedge against inflation-rising oil prices, with India importing 80% of its crude requirement.

Many analysts also feel that stocks could take a bigger hit soon with levels of 15500 almost being tested by Nifty on March 8. "Based on geopolitics, inflation, and a general slowdown in the economy, I think equity markets are overpriced at the current juncture," said Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of India's largest retail brokerage Zerodha.

"Diversification into tools that could act as a hedge against inflation will be a prudent way to go. Gold, historically, has acted as a good hedge and it will make sense to allocate 15 - 20% of ones portfolio to it."

Investment bank Goldman Sachs has upgraded its 12-month price target of gold to $2500 an ounce (31.10gms) from $2150 earlier, given the simultaneous acceleration of all the demand drivers for the yellow metal.

"This could push prices well above the record high of ₹56,029 in 2022," said Hormuz Maloo, director AFco Invetsments.

### *Rising Case for Portfolio Diversification*

- Investors advised to **increase portfolio allocation** to paper gold amid geopolitical tensions, rising inflation & volatile stock markets
- Sovereign gold bond subscribed value at **₹37,906 cr** as on Jan 22
- AUMs of gold ETFs **rise by almost 30%** year on year in Dec to ₹18405 crore
- Inflationary hedge and safe haven appeal of gold makes Goldman Sachs raise **12 m price target on gold** to $2500 an oz from $2150
- In rupee terms, **gold expected to surpass 2020 high of ₹56029** (ex-GST) amid rising inflation and weaker rupee
- FIIs sell Indian stocks worth **$18.5 b** so far this fiscal

EXPRESS READ

### 421 infra projects show overruns of ₹4.73 L cr

New Delhi: Around 421 infrastructure projects, each entailing investment of ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.73 lakh crore, says a report. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation monitors infra projects of ₹150 cr and above. Of 1,565 projects, 421 reported cost overruns.

### Adani Total forays into electric mobility infra

New Delhi: Adani Total Gas Ltd, a joint venture of Adani group and French energy giant TotalEnergies SE, has forayed into the electric mobility infrastructure sector by launching its first EV charging station in Ahmedabad. The charging station is located at ATGL's CNG station at Maninagar in Ahmedabad, the company said.

### Indian consumers show cautious optimism

New Delhi: Indian consumers are showing cautious optimism and balancing non-discretionary spending as they are saving more for the future, according to a report. Indian consumers are prioritising shopping, recreational and entertainment activities, according to the Deloitte Consumer Tracker report. The consumers surveyed are planning to spend a large share of their wallets on personal care and clothing, recreation, entertainment and leisure travel.

MONEY-WISE

# AN INTRODUCTION TO TAX LOSS HARVESTING

WHEN we trade and invest in Equities (and/or Mutual funds) a market which has many ups and downs is very useful. If you have an Equity portfolio and wish to build it over a period of say 30-40 years, you will end up buying shares on a regular basis.

Let us say you have Short term capital gains (from your trading portfolio) of ₹300,000 and you can see a "book loss" of ₹80,000 in your investing portfolio. This gives you an opportunity of 'booking' the loss of ₹80,000 and setting it off against your capital gain - thus saving you about ₹12,000 of capital gains. This is called TAX LOSS HARVESTING.

Tax Loss harvesting is the practice of selling a share that trades below your buy price, so that you can convert the book losses you see into real losses. The advantage is that if you convert ₹80,000 book loss to an actual loss, you can perhaps convert a part of the Short term capital gain to a Long term capital gain. This used to be very attractive when STCG was 20% and LTCG was 0%. Thus a huge arbitrage was possible. However, today the arbitrage is down to 5% - the difference between STCG and LTCG is just 5%. Do remember that there are many other things to consider too - brokerage, price variation risk, administrative headache, etc - so do think twice before you do such arbitrage.

Once you decide to do it, do take a look at your trading or investing account and see what is the situation - is it worth doing this exercise. Also, let us say you had bought the share at ₹100, and is now quoting at ₹60. You get a loss of say ₹40 per share - and say 2000 shares, so you now have a "booked" loss of ₹80,000. You need to buy the share at ₹60 - thus, you will incur the brokerage as the cost of doing this transaction. Technically, you should be buying on the next day - or you risk that the transaction will be treated as a 'speculative' transaction and the off-set will not be allowed.

Even better is to sell the shares in your portfolio and buy it in the portfolio of your spouse, children or Huf. This makes it even better - however it is not exactly a tax-loss harvesting the way we see it.

It helps you to re-think on your portfolio - and feels less bad about selling a loss making position. I have seen some good shares in my portfolio (which I wish to hold for a long time) quoting at a discount. However, do remember when you do this Tax Loss Harvesting you are changing the 'cost-basis'. So the above-mentioned share goes back to ₹200, and I wish to sell it, my new revised cost is ₹60 - and if I will pay tax on ₹140. Of course, the more observant reader must have realised that 'Tax Loss harvesting' is just a postponement of tax. An important caveat: When you trade in equity shares you should concentrate on the trade - not so much on the tax. For example if you are seeing that you are sitting on profits - and have a sell call - just sell it - waiting could be expensive.

Do your own due diligence before you try this!

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**PV SUBRAMANYAM**

*writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'*

# Stock markets to remain range-bound with negative bias

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

THE Russia-Ukraine war continues to weigh on domestic equity markets as they enter into a sideways movement phase. The geopolitical crisis in eastern Europe will have an impact on the energy as well as commodity prices stoking high inflationary sentiments.

Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex traded within a range last week with both ending the red. The Nifty moved within a narrow range of 17400-17000 levels in the five sessions last week. The Nifty ended the week at 17,153 (falling by 0.4%) while the Sensex ended the week at 57,362 (lower by 0.52%).

Experts say that usually such range-bound moves end in a decisive move either side, but this time the bias is towards a downward move.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, says that after the recent 10% rally, the market has turned sideways with a negative bias due to increase in commodity prices, tightening monetary policy and inflationary pressure. He feels the domestic market is showing strong resilience but to sustain the trend a lot will depend on the outcome of the war and commodity

prices.

High global energy prices are already showing its impact in India with oil marketing companies finally beginning to increase fuel prices. Petrol and diesel prices have already been increased five times last week with petrol costing ₹3.70 more and diesel ₹3.75.

The LPG, CNG and PNG prices have also been increased. These will show in the March inflation numbers, increasing the chances of the Central Bank shedding its dovish interest rate policy, a scenario the equity markets are not going to like too much.

"The effect of the war on inflation around the globe and the response of the central banks to tackle it may largely influence the direction of the markets over the near to medium term," says Dr Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management.

Technical analysts see declining strength in a bounce back by the markets.

Nagaraj Shetti, technical research analyst, HDFC Securities, says the inability of bulls to continue with sharp follow-through up move post upside breakout of significant 16800-17000 levels could also be another cause of concern as of now.

"The broader uptrend status remains intact as long as Nifty sustains above 16800 levels. A decisive decline below this area is likely to trigger downward correction and a sustainable move above 17450 could open renewed buying interest in the market for next week," he added.

RISE OF OTT

# PVR, Inox jointly report over ₹1k cr loss in FY21

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE Covid era has changed entertainment consumption worldwide and India is no exception.

In the last few years, the growth of online entertainment has been so rampant that the number of OTT platform providers has grown from 2 in 2012 to over 3 dozen at present. Giants such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney have much larger budgets than conventional production houses when it comes to producing content and feeding it to viewers for a full year at a price of 2 multiplex ticket prices.

In a recent note, Boston Consulting Group had predicted that the OTT content market in India is likely to reach a market size of $5 billion by 2023.

To note, the cinema industry had its worst fiscal in FY21 and FY22 is going to be no better, thanks to the omicron variant. PVR and Inox had jointly reported over ₹1,000 crore loss in FY21.

The Board of Directors of the merged company would be re-constituted with total board strength of 10 members and both the promoter families having equal representation on the Board with 2 board seats each.

Pavan Kumar Jain would be appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the Board. Ajay Bijli would be appointed as the Managing Director and Sanjeev Kumar would be appointed as the Executive Director. Siddharth Jain would be appointed as Non-Executive Non-Independent Director in the combined entity.

# Two-day nationwide strike by trade union forum may hit essential services

SOME of the essential services related to banking, transportation, railways and electricity are likely to be impacted during a two-day nationwide strike called by a joint forum of central trade unions beginning Monday.

Talking to PTI, All Indian Trade Union Congress General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur said, "We are expecting participation of over 20 crore formal and informal workers with mass mobilisation of workers across the country during the strike on March 28 and 29 to protest against government policies." She said that the strike is expected to hit the rural parts also, where informal workers of farming and other sectors will join the protest.

The strike notices were given by workers' unions of various sectors such as coal, steel, oil, telecom, postal, income tax, copper, banks and insurance.

Unions in railways and defence sector will carry out mass mobilization in support of the strike at several places, the joint forum said.

The unions' demands include scrapping of the proposed changes in labour laws, privatisation of any form and the national monetisation pipeline. Increased allocation of wages under MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and regularisation of contract workers are also part of their demands.

Workers of roadways, transport and electricity departments have also decided to join the strike in spite of the impending threat of ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act) which is likely to be imposed in Haryana and Chandigarh, the joint forum said in a statement.

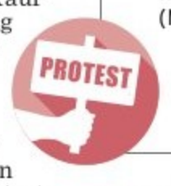
Trade unions, including INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC are part of the joint forum.

Meanwhile, the power ministry on Sunday advised all the state-run utilities and other agencies to be on high alert and ensure round-the-clock electricity supply and stability of the national grid.

*PTI*

**WHAT ARE THE DEMANDS?**

Scrapping of the proposed changes in labour laws, privatisation of any form and the national monetisation pipeline. Increased allocation of wages (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and regularisation of contract workers




TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹531.20

Target Price ₹605

JSPL

JSPL plans to maintain peak EBITDA level of 1.5x through the cycle, even though the company expects to be in 'Net cash' position by Sep'22. We expect coking coal price to average at $400/t for FY23 and $300/t for FY24, as compared with the current price of $625/t. JSPL is the only company which offers strong volume growth, deleveraging and increase in share of captive raw materials.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

**Disclaimer:** The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

## *I've not really thought about my future: Mithali on retirement call*

Mithali Raj may have earlier hinted at a possible retirement at the end of the Women's World Cup, but she said it's not the right time to take a call on her future just after the country's heart-breaking exit. "You've not given me even an hour to think about my future, to go through and process what has just happened today," Raj said in the post-match virtual media interaction,

# MILLIMETRE SHORT

India women lose to South Africa in their last league match, fail to make it to WC semifinals

**GOMESH S** @Chennai

Indian team walks off the field after their loss against South Africa at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Sunday | AFP

DEEPTI SHARMA was in the middle of a huddle with Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana. If Jhulan Goswami was playing, she'd have been there too. The off-spinner is about to bowl the most important over yet for India in this World Cup. She had seven runs to defend against South Africa's Mignon du Preez and Trsiha Chetty. Win and progress to the semifinals, lose and get knocked out of the event. The stakes couldn't have been higher.

Five years ago, Deepti, then 19, was in a similar position at Lord's. Batting at No 7, she had to see through a chase where India needed 11 runs from two overs with two wickets in hand. She panicked, played an ugly hoick and watched her team lose the World Cup by nine runs.

But, Sunday was different. Coming back after being left out for the last couple of games, she had sent down nine overs on the day for just 34 runs. She was as calm as anyone could have been. If there were any nerves, it didn't show.

As Deepti bowled tight, stump-to-stump lines, every ball was an event. There were four singles and a run out in the first four deliveries. With three runs needed of two, Deepti sent down a full delivery at pace, which du Preez, who was batting on 50, couldn't get under and holed out Harmanpreet at long-on. The Indian vice-captain let out a roar that resonated with every household in India who were watching the match. They had sealed all but sealed the match. Except, that there was more to that, as it turned out to be a no-ball.

Du Preez was back and two needed from two with a free hit. But there was still hope of taking it to the super over. Off the last ball, du Preez casually flicked Deepti into the gap to take South Africa home. India's World Cup dreams had come to an agonising end. But, was this contest supposed to come as close as it did? It all could have been over when Laura Wolvaardt and Lara Goodall were running away with the chase, or when Mandhana dropped du Preez, or when Marizanne Kapp was milking the spinners around with ease, or when Chloe Tryon hit three fours off Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

Everytime, it seemed like the game was slipping away, someone or the other created a magic for india. Whether its Harmanpreet dismissing Wolvaardt and Sune Luus and running out Lizelle Lee and Kapp, or Gayakwad deceiving Tryon and completing a return catch or Mandhana diving on the ropes to stop a boundary in the penultimate over, they kept fighting back till the last moment.

Even with the bat, the way Shafali Verma took the best pace attack in the world, and how Mandhana, Harmanpreet and Mithali took it from there, it was one of their best batting performances by far, despite falling short in the death overs.

A benumbed Mithali spoke on similar lines after the match. "The way we made a comeback, even in today's game the way the girls have responded, whether it is bowling or batting, I think they've done really well.... But overall, I think we could have done better," she said.

In hindsight, the easier and straightforward reasoning on Sunday's result would be that they fell short by 30 runs. But sport is seldom simple, especially cricket. It is more about the small margins, fighting with what's in hand at any given situation, and holding their nerves better under pressure. And India did that better for most part of the game on Sunday.

Perhaps, that is what will go down as the legacy of this team, especially Mithali and Jhulan. Reaching for the sky and giving everything for it on the field to the best of their capabilities despite the barriers, and falling short by inches in the end.

**Brief scores:** India 274/7 in 50 ovs (Mandhana 71, Mithali 68; Klaas 2/38) **lost to** South Africa 275/7 in 50 ovs (Wolvaardt 80; Du Preez 52; Harmanpreet 2/42) by three wickets.

# Punjab flex their muscle against RCB, chase 206

**ASHIM SUNAM** @Bengaluru

THERE were a lot of similarities between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Punjab Kings, ahead of their maiden game of IPL 2022 at DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. Despite possessing a star-studded line-up in the past, both teams have underachieved. The 15th edition is a fresh guard for both with two new captains on the horizon. If Faf Du Plessis has been handed the responsibility for Bangalore, Mayank Agarwal was the chosen one for Punjab.

The South African was aware of the job at hand. He was not only replacing Virat Kohli as the skipper, but also had to relieve pressure from the Indian, who has been under tremendous expectations season after season. If their first game is any indication, Du Plessis has taken the new responsibility like duck to water, top-scoring with 88 runs to help his team score 205/2, a challenging score on any surface.

But then, there was no way Punjab could be taken easily, especially with established T20 players in their side. Punjab did manage to score at a good rate, with Agarwal leading from the front, scoring a quick 24-ball 32.

That set the tone for the other batters after his wicket as they reached their 100 in the 11th over with Shikhar Dhawan bringing in all his experience into play while Bhanuka Rajapaksa brought his A game as well. In fact, it was the latter, who scored quick runs. Harshal Patel, who dismissed Dhawan, made the much needed breakthrough and when Mohammed Siraj scalped Rajapaksa and Raja Bawa in two deliveries, the game was too close to call.

When the equation changed to 36 required from 18 balls, Odean Smith smashed three sixes and one four to bring their team close to a massive win. His innings (8-ball 25) alongside an unbeaten 24 from Shahrukh Khan proved to be massive as Punjab reached the target with six balls to spare and win by five wickets.

Earlier in the evening, Du Plessis did not start too well, scoring at around a strike rate of just over 55 and had just one four in the powerplay, but Du Plessis decided to change gears after the eleventh over.

In between the 12th over and his dismissal in the 18th overs, he was at his menacing best, scoring 65 in 23 balls, which included two fours and seven sixes. One also needs to applaud Kohli, who helped Du Plessis get into the groove with the former scoring runs quite briskly. The duo was quite unstoppable with a partnership of 118 runs with Kohli remaining unbeaten on 29-ball 41. Dinesh Karthik applied the finishing touches with a 14-ball 32, including three fours and three sixes.

**Brief scores:** RCB 205/2 in 20 ovs (Du Plessis 88) lost to PBKS 208/5 in 19 ovs (Rajapaksa 43, Dhawan 43, Agarwal 32, Odean 25 n.o).

## DEBUTANT'S NIGHT OUT

Guajrat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, two of the newest teams in the IPL, will face-off at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday. Here is a look at what to expect...

### COMBINATION LOCK FOR LUCKNOW

Although Lucknow have managed to put together a balanced squad, including a strong XI, the likes of Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stoinis and Jason Holder will not be available for the fixture. So they have to look at other options, which opens the door for Evin Lewis, Andrew Tye for a place in the XI. With Kyle Mayers also not available, Lucknow will mostly take the field with only three overseas players.

### BATTING WORRIES FOR GUJARAT

Where will Gujarat get their runs from? That is the question on everyone's lips. They arguably have the weakest batting line-up in the tournament with Jason Roy pulling out of the tournament. So the likes of Shubman Gill, Vijay Shankar, Wriddhiman Saha and Hardik Pandya have to shoulder the responsibility with the bat and ensure the likes of Rashid Khan, Lockie Ferguson, Mohammed Shami have enough runs to bowl with.

**LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 7:30 PM**

RCB skipper Faf Du Plessis (r) in action against Punjab Kings on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

# Kuldeep hands MI Capital punishment

**SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN** @Chennai

KULDEEP Yadav had a wide smile on his face. There was a noticeable purpose in the way he walked, his celebrations had the air of a man who was enjoying life, like an unleashed golden retriever out on its evening run in the neighbourhood park.

By the time he was done with his quota of four overs, Mumbai Indians had been pegged back. A confident start (53/0 from six overs) had made way to a muddle in the middle overs (123/4 after 16) largely thanks to the wrist-spinner's guile on a surface made tailor made for trusting the bounce and hitting through the line, aka good batting wicket. His 3/18 (eight dots, zero boundaries) enabled Rishabh Pant to control the flow of runs after the initial onslaught. That Kuldeep also managed to tie down Ishan Kishan, who finished with an unbeaten 81 off 48, was proof of the work he was doing behind the scenes. He admitted as much after the innings. "Very happy," he told the host broadcaster. "I have been talking to Ricky (Ponting, Delhi Capitals coach) regarding the length of the ball in T20s. I did the same with Rohit (Sharma) with the India side. The wicket was good, and it didn't help me. The length has to be good to not allow the batters the time to hit."

On Sunday at Brabourne Stadium, the tweaker exhibited his range in picking at least two of his three wickets. For Rohit Sharma, he didn't push it through, asking the opener to manufacture power to clear the field which he failed. Against Anmolpreet Singh, it was full with a lot of air. The batter accepted the invitation but couldn't clear long off. Kieron Pollard will be disappointed with the way he fell because it was almost a long hop but you make your own luck in sport and Kuldeep was overdue. It's fair to say Kuldeep had lost a bit of that confidence, self belief in recent times. In 2020, he played five IPL games (12 overs, one wicket). In 2021, he warmed the bench during the India leg before being ruled out of the UAE leg thanks to a knee injury. Even though he played for the national team during this phase, the returns were not very satisfactory. Six wickets in eight games (five ODIs and three T20Is) revealed its own story. During the West Indies series early this year, Rohit had hinted that a fit-again Kuldeep would very much be in his plans. Even if he wasn't trusted all that much, this team management wouldn't be averse to rekindling an old alliance (Kuldeep & Yuzvendra Chahal). Kuldeep's 3/18 also had the desired effect because 177 was a slightly undercooked total on a good surface.

**Brief scores:** Mumbai Indians 177/5 in 20 ovs (Ishan 81 n.o, Kuldeep 3/18) **lost to** Delhi Capitals 179/6 in 18.2 ovs (Lalit 48 n.o, Thampi 3/35).

# Swiss hit: Sindhu wins second title of season

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @Chennai

JUST 10 days ago, PV Sindhu had come out on the losing side after a 66-minute contest against Japan's Sayaka Takahashi at the All England Open Championships. That she was making her 10th unsuccessful attempt to win that elusive title meant it was a harsh lesson once again.

Anyone in her position might have taken some time to process that reality but not Sindhu. Winning and Sindhu has become synonymous over the years, given the plethora of medals the current World No 7 has earned in the last decade or so.

On Sunday, she added one more to her trophy cabinet by clinching the Swiss Open, a BWF Super 300 event. The two-time Olympic medallist showed her might against Thailand's Busanan Ongamrungphan (World No 11) in the final with a 21-16, 21-8 demolition in 49 minutes. This was Sindhu's second title of 2022 after her success at the Syed Modi International. In the opening game, it was a see-saw battle at the start with both Sindhu and Busanan trading points. The Indian was testing her rival's backhand and managed to hit some winners in the process. The duo was also involved in long rallies with both testing out each other's fortitude. It was Sindhu who had her nose in front during the first break.

Despite being forced into making some errors, the Thai shuttler stayed in the game until the end. However, Sindhu brought her big-game reputation to the fore at the crunch moment. At 18-16, she knew she had a lead to protect and she took a sensible approach. As Busanan tried to close the gap with some attacking shots, Sindhu responded well with some good returns. She even managed to return a near-impossible shot that was aimed at her body to eventually win the point and extend lead. In the end, Busanan ran out of ideas as Sindhu went on to bag first game.

The second game was a complete contrast with Sindhu enjoying complete dominance. Visibly fired up, Sindhu was playing with a spring in her steps, displaying her array of strokes. Busanan, on the other hand, looked deflated as the gap got bigger and bigger. In the end, it was an easy win for Sindhu and she seemed pleased with her overall display, celebrating with a fist pump and breaking into a smile.

### Prannoy loses in final

While Sindhu had a happy outing, HS Prannoy had to be content with a second-place finish after losing the men's singles final against World No 8 Jonatan Christie. Prannoy lost 12-21, 18-21 on Sunday,

# Medvedev tops Murray, aims to reclaim No 1 spot

**AP** @Miami Gardens (US)

DANIIL Medvedev never gave Andy Murray a chance. The top-seeded Medvedev opened his bid to reclaim the No. 1 ranking on Saturday by topping Murray 6-4 6-2 in the second round of the Miami Open. Medvedev never faced a break point in any of his nine service games.

He can regain the No. 1 spot by making the Miami semifinals.

"Definitely, I have a lot of motivation to try and get it back," Medvedev said. Only five men in the past 18 years have held the No. 1 ranking that is currently held by Novak Djokovic. Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are also past No. 1's ' while Medvedev and Murray are the others. Murray was No. 1 from November 2016 through August 2017, and that distinction was handed off between Djokovic, Federer and Nadal since before Medvedev got there for the first time on Feb. 28.

## EXPRESS READ

### Windies beat England, take series 1-0

ST GEORGE'S (GRENADA): A maiden Test century by Joshua da Silva and another England collapse meant that West Indies beat England by 10 wickets in the series-deciding third Test. The English barely avoided losing on day three on Saturday when they crawled to stumps on 103-8. Their failure to win a Test series in the Caribbean in 18 years is extended. West Indies secured a first Test series win at home since 2019.

### Mandeep records win

CHENNAI: India's Mandeep Jangra beat Brandon Sandoval of USA in the lightweight category on Plant City, Florida to record his third victory since joining professional boxing. Using his size and speed, Jangra, a former Commonwealth Games silver medallist, dominated the contest to win.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124**

**Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A**

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-16(A)/21-22 Dt:24.03.2022

**"Water supply line at PHC"** (T/C-21-083, Est. cost ₹ 16.50 Lakhs); **"Construction of Security watch tower"** (T/C-21-084, Est. cost ₹16.28 Lakhs). **Sale period extended upto 08.04.2022.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT**
TITILAGARH ROAD,BALANGIR - 767001 (ODISHA)

No.722/723/724/SIHM/2021-22/TENDER Date: 25.03.2022

E-tender invited by SIHM, Balangir from established firms/shops registered in India for supply / contract of following items:

1. Kitchen Equipments for Hotel Management Trade for the Academic Session 2021-2022. (No.722/SIHM/2021-22/TENDER, dt.25.03.2022)
2. Bakery (Small Tools) for Hotel Management Trade for the Academic Session 2021-2022. (No.723/SIHM/2021-22/TENDER, dt.25.03.2022)
3. Crockery & Cutlery for Hotel Management Trade for the Academic Session 2021-2022. (No.724/SIHM/2021-22/TENDER, dt.25.03.2022)

Interested parties may kindly visit the below mentioned website for further details:

www.tenderwizard.com/SIHM or www.sihmbalangir.org

Sd/-
Principal

**GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED**
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar: 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407
આપણી મેટ્રો

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: GMRC/RS MAINTENANCE SERVICES/PH-1/2022
Date : 28.03.2022

E-Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Contractors for the following tender :

| Tender Name | Tender Fees |
|---|---|
| Tender for providing maintenance services of Rolling Stock for GMRC, Phase-1. | INR 25,000/- |

Interested bidders are requested to visit **https://gmrc.nprocure.com** for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the tender document. **Last date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs on 07.05.2022.**

Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria cum Qualification Requirements, and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc, will be uploaded on **https://gmrc.nprocure.com** and GMRC's Website **www.gujaratmetrorail.com** without any obligation or press notification or other proclamation.

**Sd/-**
**Managing Director,**
**GMRC, Gandhinagar**

QuoteExpress **THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING** › WALT DISNEY

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE(W&M)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-(C)/2021-22/4283-87 Date : 25.03.2022

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation limited invites bids on Electronic mode for the following civil works against the following bid enquiry numbers.

**1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/42** for Construction of RCC Road and Drain at 110/11kV Sub-Station **Javagal** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State. **(Reserved to SC category)**

**2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/43** for Construction of RCC sump tank with Rain Water Harvesting and other allied works at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Ganguru** in Belur Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State.

**3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/44** for Construction of security compound wall and other allied works at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Chikkakondagola** in Hassan Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State.

**4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/45** for Extension to control Room Building at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Yesaluru** in Sakaleshpura Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State. **(Reserved to ST Category)**

**5) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/46** for Construction of compound wall and other allied works at **Gandasi** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State. **(Reserved to SC Category)**

**6) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/47** for Construction of RCC sump tank with rain water harvesting and allied works 220/66/11kV Sub-Station **Yachenahalli** in C.R.Patna Taluk. Hassan District Karnataka State.

**7) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/48** for Construction of RCC Road and other allied works at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Doddamagge** in Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District Karnataka State.

**8) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/49** for Extension of control room building at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Ramanathapura** in Arakalgudu Taluk, Hassan District Karnataka State.

**9) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2021-22/50** for Construction of RCC sump tank with Rain water Harvesting and other allied works at 66/11kV Sub-Station **Didaga** in C.R.Patna Taluk, Hassan District Karnataka State.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement - kptcl" or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **5.00 PM on 29.03.2022.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec),**
**Transmission (W & M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan,**
**2nd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan**

No.KPTCECS/598/2021-22 DATE: 27-03-2022

## K.P.T.C. EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

BESCOM, DAS Building Next to Integrate Control Centre-2, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560 010

**Auction of Sites formed by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Employees Co-operative Society Ltd., at KADABAGERE LAYOUT, Kadabagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.**

1. Auction Date : 27/04/2022
2. Time : 11.00 am
3. Only for Active Members of the above said Society
4. E.M.D. to be paid Rs. 2,50,000-00 for each Site.
5. Location of Site/s : KADABAGERE LAYOUT
6. Place of Auction : KPTCL Employees Samudaya Bhavana, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010

**DETAILS OF SITES**

| SL No. | Site No. | EAST TO WEST IN SQ.MT | NORTH TO SOUTH IN SQ.MT | TOTAL SQ.MT | AREA IN SQ.FT | Reserve Price (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 01 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.97 | 2400 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 02 | 07 | 18.2888 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 03 | 27 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3500/sq.ft |
| 04 | 37 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3500/sq.ft |
| 05 | 38 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3500/sq.ft |
| 06 | 44 | 14.11224 | 18.68424 | 263.67 | 2838.14388 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 07 | 45 | 16.9164 | 18.288 | 309.36 | 3329.95104 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 08 | 51 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3500/sq.ft |
| 09 | 52 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3500/sq.ft |
| 10 | 70 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 11 | 74 | 18.7452 | 23.667720000000002 | 443.65 | 4775.4486 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 12 | 75 | 18.751296000000003 | 16.3068 | 305.67 | 3290.23188 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 13 | 85 | 18.288 | 12.192 | 222.96 | 2400 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 14 | 97 | 22.555200000000003 | 18.4404 | 415.93 | 4477.07052 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 15 | 136 | Odd site | Odd site | 141.21 | 1519.98444 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 16 | 168 | Odd Site | Odd Site | 495.69 | 5335.60716 | 3000/sq.ft |
| 17 | 257 | 20.2692 | 18.288 | 493.31 | 5309.98884 | 3000/sq.ft |

**Rules and Regulations for Auctioning Sites are as below:**

1. Only Active Members of the Karnataka Power Transmission corporation employees co-operative Society Ltd., can participate in the Auction.
2. Bidders must furnish the following documents for proof of their Address for participating in the Auction.
   a) Membership Identity Card.
   b) Pan Card
   c) Recent passport size photo (3 copies).
   d) Aadhaar Card
3. The reserve price of the Sites as mention above respectively.
4. Rs. 100/- per sq.ft. is minimum increase in the Bid of falling in multiple.
5. The EMD Rs.2,50,000/- per site shall be deposited by the proposed bidder by way of Cash or Demand Draft on or before Dt:25/4/2022 between 11.00am to 7.00pm to the Society, in the name of the Secretary, K.P.T.C. EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. Bescom, DAS building Next to Integrate control centre-2, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. The Bid applications and EMD received after the date and time mentioned above shall not be considered for participation in the Auction.
6. The highest bidder may be declared to be the purchase of any site provided further that the amount bid by him/her is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Board of the society to decline/accept the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
7. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of EMD on being knocked down by 72 hours (Three days) into the said amount. If next day is Holiday or Sunday then on next first office working day.
8. The Successful bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds on or before 45 days from the date of auction sale of the Site, exclusive of such day, or if 45th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after the 45th day by prescribed mode as stated above. In addition to the above Any other statutory payments also to be made as per rules by the successful bidder.
9. The successful bidder shall deposit entire bid amount to the society. The bid amount shall not carry any set off.
10. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the EMD amount shall forfeited by the society and the Successful bidder shall not entitle for registration of site. The site shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
11. The Sites will be Auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS",
12. The Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.
13. If any dispute arises Only Courts at Bangalore shall have the jurisdiction.
14. Minimum two members shall participate in Bidding of each site.
15. The E.M.D will be returned to the unsuccessful Bidder, which shall not carry any interest.
16. The bidder shall bear the bank expenses and Registration cost
17. For any information in respect of above said Sites, the Bidders may contact The Secretary, K.P.T.C. EMPLOYEES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. (Landline telephone : 080-23326689).

Sd/-
**Commissioner**

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**IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ACMM AT BANGALORE**
**C.MISC. No. 1034/2022**

**BETWEEN : 1. T. Muniraju,** S/o T. Munieswamy, Age: 77 years, R/a No. 141, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-61. **2. Shivakaur,** S/o T. Muniraju, Age: 48 years, R/a No. 640, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-61. **3. Smt. M. Meena,** D/o T. Muniraju, Age: 46 years, R/a No. 141, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-61. **4. Gangadhar,** S/o Muniraju, Age: 43 years, R/a No. 528, Sapthagiri Nilaya, Maruthi Nagara, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-61. ...**Petitioners**

**AND : The Registrar,** Births and Deaths, BBMP, Bangalore. ...**Respondent**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, the above named petitioners have filed a petition under section 13(3) of Karnataka Births and Deaths Registration Act- 1969 praying for grant of issue of death certificate of late **DHANALAKSHMI W/o T. Muniraju who died on 16.9.2019.**

Any person having their objection/s for issue of death certificate of **DHANALAKSHMI W/o T. Muniraju who died on 16.9.2019** to the petitioners any person having interest may cause the same by appearing before the court in person or through their advocate on **this 4th day of May 2022 at 11 a.m.** failing which the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on 24.03.2022.

**By order of the Court, Sheristedar,**
**XXVIII A.C.M.M. Court, Bengaluru.**
Advocate for Petitioners :

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**IN THE COURT OF THE 38TH ADDITIONAL CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE**
**C.C. No. 2331/2016**

**BETWEEN : Yelahanka Merchants Finance Company** ...**COMPLAINANT**

**AND: Rasheed** S/o. Mohammed Hussain Hussain Prop. Madeena Hotel, Ramakrishnappa Compound, Opp. Police Station, Vijayapura, Bangalore Rural District - 562135. ...**ACCUSED**

**NOTICE OF PROCLAMATION WARRANT TO THE ACCUSED**

Take notice that, the complainant has instituted the above case against you under section 138 of N.I Act for total sum of Rs.2,21,770/- hence, you are hereby directed to appear in person or through a pleader **on 30.03.2022 at 11 a.m.** before this to answer the said claim. Take notice that in default of your appearance the above case will be heard and consequences will follows:-

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 25th day of March 2022 at Bengaluru.

**By order of the Court, Sheristedar,**
**XXXVIII A.C.M.M. Court, Bangalore.**

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## TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

**e-Procurement Notice IFB Nos.78/2021-22 to 89/2021-22 Dt.28.03.2022 and 60/2021-22 Dt.15.02.2022 (2nd Call)**

Tender for total 13 Nos. of Work under various categories are invited in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam and LLC Division, Ballari through 'e-Procurement'.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time: | 28.03.2022 at 11:00 AM |
| Bid Document downloading End Date & Time : | 11.04.2022 at 3:00 PM |
| Bid Submission End Date & Time : | 11.04.2022 at 5:30 PM |
| Date of opening of Technical Stage: **(IFB No. 89/2021-22)** | 12.04.2022 at 11:00 AM |
| Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **(IFB No.78 to 88 & 60/2021-22)** | 12.04.2022 at 11:00 AM |
| Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **( IFB No. 89/2021-22)** | 13.04.2022 at 11:00 AM* |
| Date of opening of TQ Stage | 13.04.2022 at 3.00 PM |

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
* Commencement of Reverse Tendering
**Ph: 08394-259114**
**Fax: 08394-259167**

**Sd/-**
**Superintending Engineer,**
**I.B, TB Board, TB Dam**

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**IIFL HOME LOAN**

IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane – 400604
CIN No.: U65993MH2006PLC166475

By virtue of this notice, the general public and customers of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. are hereby informed that the IIFL Home Loan branch at No - 150, Bylegowda Building, Vishwesarpura, Tumkur Road, Nelamanagala Town Nelamanagala Tq-Bangalore - 562123 will be closed w.e.f. 21st July 2022.

All the customers and general public are requested to take note of the above and visit iiflhomeloans.com/locate-us to find other IIFL Home Loan branches near you.

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**IIFL HOME LOAN**

IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane – 400604
CIN No.: U65993MH2006PLC166475

By virtue of this notice, the general public and customers of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. are hereby informed that the IIFL Home Loan branch at 1st Floor, Manjunatha Sankeerna, BM Road, Ijoor, Ramanagara - 562159 will be closed w.e.f. 21st July 2022.

All the customers and general public are requested to take note of the above and visit iiflhomeloans.com/locate-us to find other IIFL Home Loan branches near you.

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**IIFL HOME LOAN**

IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane – 400604
CIN No.: U65993MH2006PLC166475

By virtue of this notice, the general public and customers of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. are hereby informed that the IIFL Home Loan branch at 1st floor BH Road Opp, Indian OIL Petrol bunk Krishanarajanagara Mysore - 571602 will be closed w.e.f. 21st July 2022.

All the customers and general public are requested to take note of the above and visit iiflhomeloans.com/locate-us to find other IIFL Home Loan branches near you.

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**IIFL HOME LOAN**

IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane – 400604
CIN No.: U65993MH2006PLC166475

By virtue of this notice, the general public and customers of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. are hereby informed that the IIFL Home Loan branch at 1221, Dwarakha Plaza Building, Ist Floor, BH Road, Nelamangala, Bangalore - 562123 will be closed w.e.f. 16th July 2022.

All the customers and general public are requested to take note of the above and visit iiflhomeloans.com/locate-us to find other IIFL Home Loan branches near you.

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**NATRUST NATIONAL TRUST HOUSING FINANCE LTD**

No.61, 1st Floor, Above Sesha Marketing Centre, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. Ph: 080-43717145.

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Possession of Immovable Property (Under Rule 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. National Trust Housing Finance Ltd, (NATRUST) under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act) 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **27-11-2021** calling upon the borrowers **Mrs. Parvathi H C and Mr. Narasimhaiah, Loan Account No.BLR02020102194** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.14,84,373/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Three only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules, on this **25th day of March 2022.**

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Natrust for an amount of **Rs.14,84,373/-** and subsequent interest thereon.

"The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub - Section (8) of Section 13 of the act, in respect of Time Available to redeem the secured assets"

**SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.142, khatha No.181/187, formed in Old Assessment No.17 and New Assessment No.17/P3 and 17/P4, Situated at Gangondanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring East to West on Northern Side - 44 Feet, on Southern Side - 38.3 Feet, and North to South on Eastern Side - 30 Feet, and on Western Side 30.6 Feet, totally measuring 1246.84 Sq.feet, and bounded on the, **Boundaries: North by :** Site No.143, **South by :** Site No.141, **East by :** Site No.132, **West by :** Road.

**Date : 25.03.2022**
**Place : Bangalore**

**National Trust Housing Finance Limited**
**Authorised Officer**

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**HDFC CREDILA** The Education Loan Specialist

**HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited**
**Regd. Office:** B-301, Citi Point, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 059
**Tel No:** 022-2825 6636 | **Website:** www.hdfccredila.com
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For and on behalf of
**HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited**
(Formerly known as HDFC Credila Financial Services Private Limited)

**Sd/-**
**Arijit Sanyal**
Managing Director & CEO

**Date:** 28th March 2022
**Place:** Bangalore

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Govt. of Maharashtra

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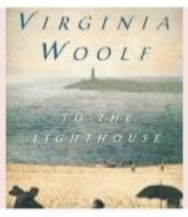
**DAY'S DIARY**

### *Loss of a writer*

On this day in 1941, writer Virginia Woolf died near Rodmell, Sussex. She drowned herself in the River Ouse in a bout of depression

**BOOKS AND REPUTATION**

She wrote many books, including 10 novels. Many of these became and remain best-sellers and cemented her reputation as one of the great writers of the 20th century




**OTHER WORK**

While she is best known for her novels — Mrs Dalloway, and To the Lighthouse — Woolf also wrote pioneering essays on artistic theory, women's writing, and more

**FEMINIST SIDE**

Woolf refused patriarchal honours like the Companion of Honour; her book-length essay *Three Guineas* (among others) shows her feminist ideas

**Tanya Hope on her role in Home Minister**

PG 4

# STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE

City-based magnate & currency collector Rezwan Razack, who recently hosted RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, at his museum on Brunton Road, tells *CE* about the experience

MONIKA MONALISA

REZWAN Razack, who is known for collecting Indian currency notes, is no stranger to celebrities and dignitaries visiting his museum – the Rezwan Razack's Museum of Indian Paper Money. But not very often does he get visitors like the governor of the Reserve Bank of India himself. His most recent guest was Shaktikanta Das, governor, RBI, who visited the museum on March 25. Das was in the city on an official visit, and was accompanied by his wife, Lopamudra Das, and R Gurumurthy, the regional director of RBI, Bengaluru.

Razack personally hosted Das and took him around the museum. "He was calm and collected and was not in any hurry. He went through the entire space with great interest. He had a lot of questions and was quite impressed at the way the museum was set up," says Razack, who is also the managing director of the Prestige Group. Earlier Razack had invited Das to be the chief guest during the launch of the museum. But due to a busy schedule, Das could not make it. When he was in the city this time around, he made it a point to visit. In 2017, Das had also launched Razack's book *One Rupee One hundred years 1917-2017*.

> *Das was particularly interested in the early bank notes. Those were notes that were used before the RBI came into existence in 1935. Paper currency could soon be history, so my collection is a story that speaks about the transition*
>
> — Rezwan Razack, prominent currency collector

Even if one deals with currency on an everyday basis, s/he might not know the detailed history and trivia behind them. "Das was particularly interested in the early bank notes. Those were notes that were used before the RBI came into existence in 1935. Before that the early banknotes came from the Bank of Calcutta, Bank of Bombay and Bank of Madras," he says, adding that Das was quite fascinated hearing all the stories. "After the Sepoy Mutiny in 1957, the British Government took over. The first thing they did was set up a currency department in India...and passed a law that all forms of currency should come from the government and not from banks. He was quite happy to see the transition in the currency scene," says Razack, adding that the first note came with a portrait of Queen Victoria which was followed by King George V.

The other notes that captured his interest were paper currency notes from Portuguese India and French India also. "He was really patient and seemed pleased with how the day turned out," says an elated Razack, who takes his passion quite seriously. "Paper currency could soon be a thing of the past, so my collection is a story that speaks about the transition," he says.

Rezwan Razack (left) showcasing his rare collection of bank notes to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das and his wife Lopamudra Das at his eponymous museum

**CREATIVE STROKES**

Visitors check out artworks at the 19th edition of Chitra Santhe, an annual art event. Around 1,500 artists displayed their works at the day-long exhibition that took place on Kumara Krupa Road on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

## CITY READ

### Seminar on auditing held in Bengaluru

The Bengaluru branch of Southern India Regional Council (SIRC ) of The Institute of Chartered Accountant of India (ICAI), organised a seminar on bank branch audits for CA students. Chief guest Ananda Krishna; chairman of Bengaluru branch Srinivasa T; SICASA chairperson Kavitha Paramesh; and managing committee members were present during the seminar.

Singer Vishal Mishra on being part of the trending songs of SS Rajamouli's *RRR*

# Crooning success

ANILA KURIAN

IF there's one film that has become the talk of the town, it has to be SS Rajamouli's *RRR*, starring NT Rama Rao Jr, Ram Charan, Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn. Bengaluru-based singer and composer **Vishal Mishra**, who has sung *Naacho Naacho* and *Sholay* from the film, is elated at the overwhelming response the film is receiving.

"It feels like a festival to be a part of such a big project like *RRR*. I'm happy to hear that the song is doing well on social media," he says, adding, "It's all thanks to those who enjoyed the music. They tend to immerse themselves in the song and love it emotionally. It's very gratifying as an artiste to be a part of it."

Mishra sung the melodies for *Sholay* in Telugu, Hindi and Tamil, which turned out to be quite a challenge. "But Rajamouli sir was there throughout the process to help us get the track right," he adds.

Mishra, who is also the voice behind *Veere* from *Veere Di Wedding* and *Kaise Hua* from *Kabir Singh*, also works on his own music apart from film projects. His latest includes *Kya Kardiya* which was released last week on YouTube and has over four lakh views on the platform.

"This song is very close to my heart and seeing that it's doing so well with the audience is truly gratifying. It's an Arabic-Indo fusion song, something that's never been done before," Mishra says, explaining that the song depicts feelings about an individual who feels lost and hurt in love.

A still from *Naacho Naacho*

Having studied in Bengaluru and starting his music career here, he says that he doesn't find anything different when working on film and independent music. "However, in film music, there's a script that you need to follow but you have your own freedom when it comes to your own songs," he says.

The pandemic hit artistes significantly, and according to Mishra, musicians are more cautious about the content they put out there. "There definitely is more quality checks because the audience has also realised what they want and the different platforms they want to tune in to. Artistes now keep those factors in mind when working," he explains.

Talking about his time in Bengaluru, the singer says, "Bengaluru is a vital part of my life. My introduction to music happened in the city, especially my rock influence. I've been working in the industry for many years now, and I definitely owe it to Bengaluru."

**Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are**

GRUB HUB

**THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY**

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹2,000 from Ciro's Pizzeria**

**THE RIGHT ANSWERS**

1) Ragi Ambali or Ragi Malt; 2) Poppy Seed, Gasagase haalu/payasa; 3) Panaka or Panakam

**FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT**

1) Pavan S Bharadwaj; 2) Neeraja T; 3) Tanisha

***Conditions apply**


# EGG PRESERVATION FOR IVF OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION

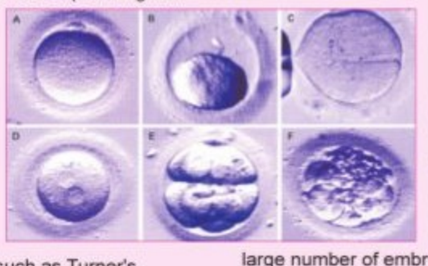
**INTRODUCTION**

As ART progress, infertile couples have a chance to achieve motherhood despite the limitations of infertility. Oocytes cryopreservation is one of these advancements in the field of ART. In a way it is sort of fertility insurance for women who wish to delay motherhood. Cryopreservation of oocytes has yielded numerous successful pregnancies decades ago in USA, Europe and Australia. However, its taken a while for it to become a regular procedure. As live birth following oocytes freezing was first reported in 1986, this techique has expanded its role encompassing various medical, legal and social indications. With the advent of vitrification, oocyte freezing has become more reliable as compared to slow freezing in terms of conception.

**INDICATIONS**

Oocyte cryopreservation can prove beneficial in several areas. It can be used in women suffering from cancer or premalignant conditions with promising survival rates post chemo or radiotherapy. In cases, embryo's can be created at a later stage once they find a suitable partner or they are in a remission period.

Besides malignancy, it can be used in fertility preservation in certain genetic conditions such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations as these women may undergo prophylactic salpingo-oopherectomy at an early stage due to their high risk of developing ovarian cancer. Even in other genetic conditions such as Turner's syndrome, Fragile X permutation and deletion of X chromosome, oocytes freezing can be employed. This technology can be used even in condition that can diminish the ovarian reserve such as severe endometriosis or Crohn's disease.



Oocyte freezing has led to donor oocyte banking, which circumvents the need to match recipients and donor cycles.

Social egg freezing has also become quite popular as awareness increases about this procedure. Women who wish to delay motherhood can avail of this technology. This allows women to freeze their oocytes at an early stage and create embryo's when they either find a partner or are ready for parenthood.
Oocyte freezing can also be used in situations when a husband is unable to give a semen sample on the day of egg pick up or a failure in yielding sperms during a testicular biopsy. Another novel indication is for women with poor ovarian reserve. Pooling of oocytes and egg banking can be considered in women where multiple stimulations are required. All the collected oocytes are thawed together and ICSI is performed creating embryos, hence mimicking a similar situation to a normal responder. It also facilitates performing PGS as there are large number of embryos. A recent indication is being developed for transgender people, who wish to undergo sex change from female to male. There are some legal/ethical reasons as well for oocyte freezing. For example in countries like Italy, as embryo freezing is not yet permitted. Oocyte freezing provides a good option and can be used later.

**ADVANTAGE OF OOCYTE FREEZING**

There are several advantages to this technique. It simplifies the oocyte donor program. It reduces the inconvenience and cost of synchronizing the cycles of the donor and recipient. It also prevents loss of excess oocytes in countries where freezing of embryos is prohibited. most importantly, it gives women control of their fertility without the worry of age and disease becoming a factor. It also allows cancer patients to freeze oocytes rather than the experimental ovarian tissue cryopreservation and the risk of implantation of malignant cells.

**Dr. B. Ramesh**
Medical Director, Gynaecology & Laparoscopic Surgery

**CONCLUSION**

Women putting their 'eggs on ice' have made several headlines. A recent review in 2016 summarised the history, indications, and outcomes of this technique. It stresses on the real need to monitor what is being done and the success rates achieved. it also points out that there is still a need to obtain quantitative as well as qualitative information.

Oocyte cryopreservation has provided and implantation rates, and thus can be considered as an efficient treatment procedure in ART. It has expanded its role from fertility preservation in cancer patients to several non medical indications including women with risk of reduced reproductive capacity owing to age related fertility decline. Further improvements in the form of vitrification technique with successful clinical outcomes are likely to result in an increased utilization of oocyte cryopreservation in clinical practice.

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WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

## CONCERT TIME

Bollyboom and SteppinOut by Dineout presents Farhan Live with Bollywood actor, director and producer Farhan Akhtar. Watch him perform live at Phoenix Marketcity. **When:** April 2 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

## ART INSTALLATIONS

Artist Heena Pari is showcasing her latest exhibition of paintings and installations called Cocooning. It marks the second anniversary of the day India went into lockdown, and life as we know changed, propelling us towards a certain path. **When:** Till April 3 **Where:** 1Shanti Road Studio, Shantinagar

## PAINTINGS ON DISPLAY

Gallery Hebbar will showcase "Surging Resilience", a group show of paintings by seven artists. **When:** Till March 30 **Where:** Gallery Hebbar, K S School of Architecture

## CRICKET MANIA

SOCIAL is bringing the spirit of the cricket stadium this season with food, drinks and screens. Some of the items include Shivaji Park Sabudana Vada, Chinnaswamy's Onion Samosa, Whistle Podu Tacos, Royals Lal Maas Pao, and more. **When:** Ongoing **Where:** All SOCIAL outlets

LAUGH OUT LOUD WITH COMEDIAN **GAURAV KAPOOR** AS HE SHARES SOME HILARIOUS ANECDOTES | **WHEN:** APRIL 3 | **DETAILS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

### Royal Exhibition

Royal Fables, a platform that recreates the regal world of Princely India, is collaborating with FICCI Flo, to showcase the Heritage Exhibition. Ambika Raje Ghorpade will be the chief guest. **When:** March 29 **Where:** The Leela Palace, Old Airport Road

### On a Tour

Popular band When Chai Met Toast is back with their first tour since the pandemic. They will be performing at UB City for their 'When We Feel Young Tour'. **When:** April 17 **Details:** insider.in

### Live Music

Teen Prahar festival aims to give a treat of ragas that are not heard in the regular night concerts. It also features artistes that are from three different stages in creative life. Watch the artistes bring it alive on stage. **When:** April 1 **Where:** Chowdiah Memorial Hall

### Fitness Challenge

Join Jackson in Fitness Mindset to lose 3kg in 30 days. This programme is set up for you to get your diet in place, make fitness a habit and lose good weight along the way. **When:** March 28 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

### Classic touch

Bring your outfit together with Classic Loafers for women by Language. Versatile and comfortable, the loafers are created with premium leather and handmade. Choose from an array of exciting colours. **Available at:** languageshoes.com; amazon.in

### Order of the Old Monk

Suzy Q brings you a festival that's crafted with food and drinks made with Old Monk rum. You can try Glazed Jamaican Wings, Drunken Prawns, Golbari Monk Mutton Rum and Raisin Chocolate Sphere dessert, among others. Prices start at ₹350++. **When:** Till April 3 **Where:** Suzy Q, Queen's Road

### Pottery Workshop

Pick up a new skill and learn pottery at Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd Stage. Through this workshop, you can learn hand-building and also the basics of handling a potter's wheel. **When:** March 29-31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

## QUICK FIX

### What's cooking

**IN YOUR KITCHEN?**
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

### RAVA DHOKLA

**INGREDIENTS**

- **Semolina:** 1 cup
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tbsp
- **Lemon juice:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt:** to taste, **Eno:** 1 tsp
- **Cumin seed, mustard seeds:** 1 tsp each, **Sugar:** 1/2 tsp
- **White sesame seeds:** 1 tbsp
- **Asafoetida:** 1/2 tsp
- **Curry leaves:** 1 tsp

–Natali Manocha, Karnal

**METHOD**

- Mix semolina, ginger-garlic paste, lemon juice, sugar, and salt with some water in a bowl. Keep aside for 15 minutes.
- In a saucepan, pour two cups of water. Place a small trivet inside the water. Bring it to a gentle boil on medium heat.
- Add Eno to the batter. Stir briskly. Pour into a greased pan and spread it with a spoon to even it out. Cover it for 15 minutes.
- Heat oil in a pan. Add mustard seeds, cumin seeds, asafoetida, white sesame seeds, and curry leaves. Cook and switch off the heat. Add 2-3 tsp of water to the pan.
- Pour this mixture on the sooji dhokla. Top it with some coriander leaves and serve with chutney.

## SOUND BOARD

**OFF MENU**
Comedians Ed Gamble and James Acaster invite special guests into their magical restaurant to each choose their favourite starter, main course, side dish, dessert and drink. It's time to order Off Menu.
- On Apple Podcasts

**A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLANS**
Host Dr. Maya Shankar blends compassionate storytelling with the science of human behavior and presents extraordinary stories of change from celebrities like Tiffany Haddish, Kacey Musgraves, and Riz Ahmed, as well as real-life inspirations from ordinary people.
- On Apple Podcasts

**ANYTHING FOR SELENA**
On the podcast Anything for Selena, Apple Podcasts' Show of the Year of 2021, Maria Garcia combines rigorous reporting with impassioned storytelling to honor Selena's legacy. She also explores the indelible mark she left on Latino identity and belonging, whether it's fatherhood, big-butt politics, and the fraught relationship with whiteness and language.
- On Apple Podcasts

**REVISIONIST HISTORY**
Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past – an event, a person, an idea, even a song – and asks whether we got it right the first time. From Pushkin Industries. Because sometimes the past deserves a second chance.
- On Spotify

**STUFF THE BRITISH STOLE**
Throughout its reign, the British Empire stole a lot of stuff. Today, those objects are housed in genteel institutions across the UK and the world. They usually come with polite plaques. This is a series about the not-so-polite history behind those objects.
- ON Apple Podcasts

## POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

**BHARAATE**
Jagan, a local travel guide, falls in love with Radha, a tourist who visits his city. Though she leaves without saying goodbye, fate conspires to being them together again.
- Cast: Sreeleela, Sri Murali, Rachita Ram, Krishi Thapanda

**SHRUTHI**
Four friends aspiring to be musicians cross paths with a woman who is searching for her lover. They see an opportunity to help each other and soon form a partnership.
- Cast: Shruti, Sunil, Honnavalli Krishna, Indudhar

**PARAMATHMA**
Param is a rich young man who falls in love with Deepa. He soon discovers that his friend Sanvi is in love with him and tries to clear the air between them.
Cast: Deepa Sannidhi, Puneeth Rajkumar, Aindrita Ray, Anant Nag

**RAAM**
Ram, a young man who is extremely attached to his mother, is suspected to be behind her murder. Soon, the combined efforts of Ram and the police lead them to the real killer.
- Cast: Jiiva, Saranya Ponvannan, Nithiin, Genelia D'Souza

**ANNA THANGI**
Lakshmi's husband becomes a pauper and is sent to jail after his brothers cheat him. Lakshmi's life turns upside down when she becomes dependent on Shivanna, her brother.
- Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Kutty Radhika, Tennis Krishna, Sadhu Kokila

## WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

**1 WHY ALL MELODIES SHOULD BE FREE FOR MUSICIANS TO USE** BY DAMIEN RIEHL
Evoke a familiar tune in a song and get slapped with a lawsuit... it's a tale almost as old as copyright itself. Lawyer and technologist Damien Riehl digs into why "owning" a melody is a ludicrous legal assertion and composes a radical solution for the musical woes of songwriters everywhere.

**2 THE AFRICAN SWAMP PROTECTING EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT** BY VERA SONGWE
The peatlands of Africa's Congo Basin are under threat of environmental destruction. Economist Vera Songwe explains how putting a price on the carbon stored in the peatlands would not only help protect this vital resource but also recognize and reward the African communities.

**3 3 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM IN DIFFICULT TIMES** BY KEVIN KELLY
Tracing humanity's progress throughout history, author Kevin Kelly observed that a positive outlook helps us solve problems and empowers us to forge a path forward. In this talk, he shares three reasons for optimism during challenging times, explaining how it can help us become better ancestors and create the world we want to see for posterity.

**4 THE HIDDEN POWER OF SAD SONGS AND RAINY DAYS** BY SUSAN CAIN AND MIN KYM
In this profound, poetic talk, author Susan Cain invites you to embrace the feeling of longing as a gateway to creativity, connection and love. Accompanied by the sounds of violinist Min Kym, Cain meditates on how heartache unexpectedly brings us closer to the sublime beauty of life.

**5 POWERFUL PHOTOS THAT HONOR THE LIVES OF OVERLOOKED WOMEN** BY SMITA SHARMA
In some parts of the world, girls are as likely to be married off or trafficked as they are to be educated. Photojournalist Smita Sharma thoughtfully depicts overlooked girls and young women, while making sure not to disrupt the lives of her subjects in the process. Her work shows the first step to changing the story.

## FIT BIT

### PADMA MAYURASANA
(LOTUS PEACOCK POSE)

This asana is an intermediate to advanced arm-balancing posture that requires wrist, arm and shoulder strength, as well as body awareness and balance. In addition to its physical benefits, it increases focus, concentration, determination and promotes mental, spiritual and emotional balance. It is also believed to open, activate and balance the Manipura (navel or solar plexus) chakra. Manipura is associated with transformation power, confidence, self-esteem and decision-making.

**STEPS**

- Start with Dandasana, where your legs and back remain erect and breathe normally.
- Lift your right foot and place it on the left thigh, and your left foot on the right thigh, which completes Padmasana.
- From here, stretch your hand in front and bend forward, standing on your knees in Padmasana. Your fingers pointing backward.
- Now, bend your elbows by bringing them together and lean forward to place them on the centre of the abdomen or near the naval.
- Then, try to lean forward a bit more; upper arms on your torso.
- After that, inhale to lift your legs in Padmasana by engaging your core and pushing against the floor with your hands.
- Maintain the posture for as long as possible and then lean back to sit in Padmasana.
- Finally, come back to the original position of Dandasana and then relax.

**BENEFITS**

- Ensures optimum digestion.
- Helps in spleen enlargement and significantly improves various cognitive functions, such as performance enhancement, neural activity, attention, and executive function.
- Helps the liver function at an optimum state.
- Helps in managing the blood glucose level, so that it reduces diabetes.
- It has positive effects on cough problems. Hence, helps in the reduction of it.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Don't displace your hand positioning too away from the centre.
- In the final position, avoid dropping your heads.
- Those with conditions of the wrist, shoulder, elbows and spinal injury, should avoid this.
- Pregnant women, individuals who have high blood pressure and asthma should avoid this.

*By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai*

# NOW STREAMING

## REGIONAL

**SAINA** (Hindi)
Saina Nehwal, a badminton enthusiast, considers pursuing the sport full-time. When she starts training under an efficient coach, she soon becomes the best and ranks number one in the sport.
**Cast:** Parineeti Chopra
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**PARZANIA** (Hindi)
Inspired by a true story, a Parsi couple attempt to find their son who tragically went missing in 2002 during the Gujarat riots.
**Cast:** Naseeruddin Shah, Sarika, Corin Nemec, Raj Zutshi, Parzan Dastur
- **Watch on:** Disney+Hotstar

**HASEEN DILRUBA** (Hindi)
A woman suspected of killing her husband narrates an interesting story about her marriage while investigating police officers look for clues to arrest her.
**Cast::** Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey, Harshvardhan Rane
- **Watch on:** Netflix

**CHAL MAN JEETVA JAIYE** (Gujarati)
A family that owns a business finds itself at the crossroads where a wrong decision made by them could result in a tremendous loss.
**Cast:** Karan Bhanushali, Krishna Bharadwaj, Hemen Chauhan
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**HARISHCHANDRACHI FACTORY** (Marathi)
Dadasaheb Phalke accidentally discovers a tent screening a silent movie and is amazed by the idea of storytelling. He brings together a team of technicians to produce India's first feature film.
Cast: Karan Bhanushali, Krishna Bharadwaj, Hemen Chauhan
- Watch on: Netflix

*All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.*

**DIA** (Kannada)
Dia takes three years to confess her feelings to Rohith but after a terrible accident, she is told he does not survive. Later, when she starts seeing Adi, she finds out that Rohith is still alive.
**Cast:** Prithivi Ambar, Dheekshith Shetty, Kushee Ravi
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**THERI** (Tamil)
DCP Vijaya Kumar goes into hiding to raise his daughter in a safe environment. However, after her life is threatened by deadly gangsters, he must face his past to protect his daughter.
**Cast:** Vijay, Samantha Ruth Prabhu
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

## FOREIGN

**THE MARTIAN** (English)
Mark Watney is stranded on the planet of Mars after his crew leaves him behind, presuming him to be dead due to a storm. With minimum supplies, Mark struggles to keep himself alive.
**Cast:** Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wig, Jeff Daniels, Kate Mara
- **Watch on:** Disney+Hotstar

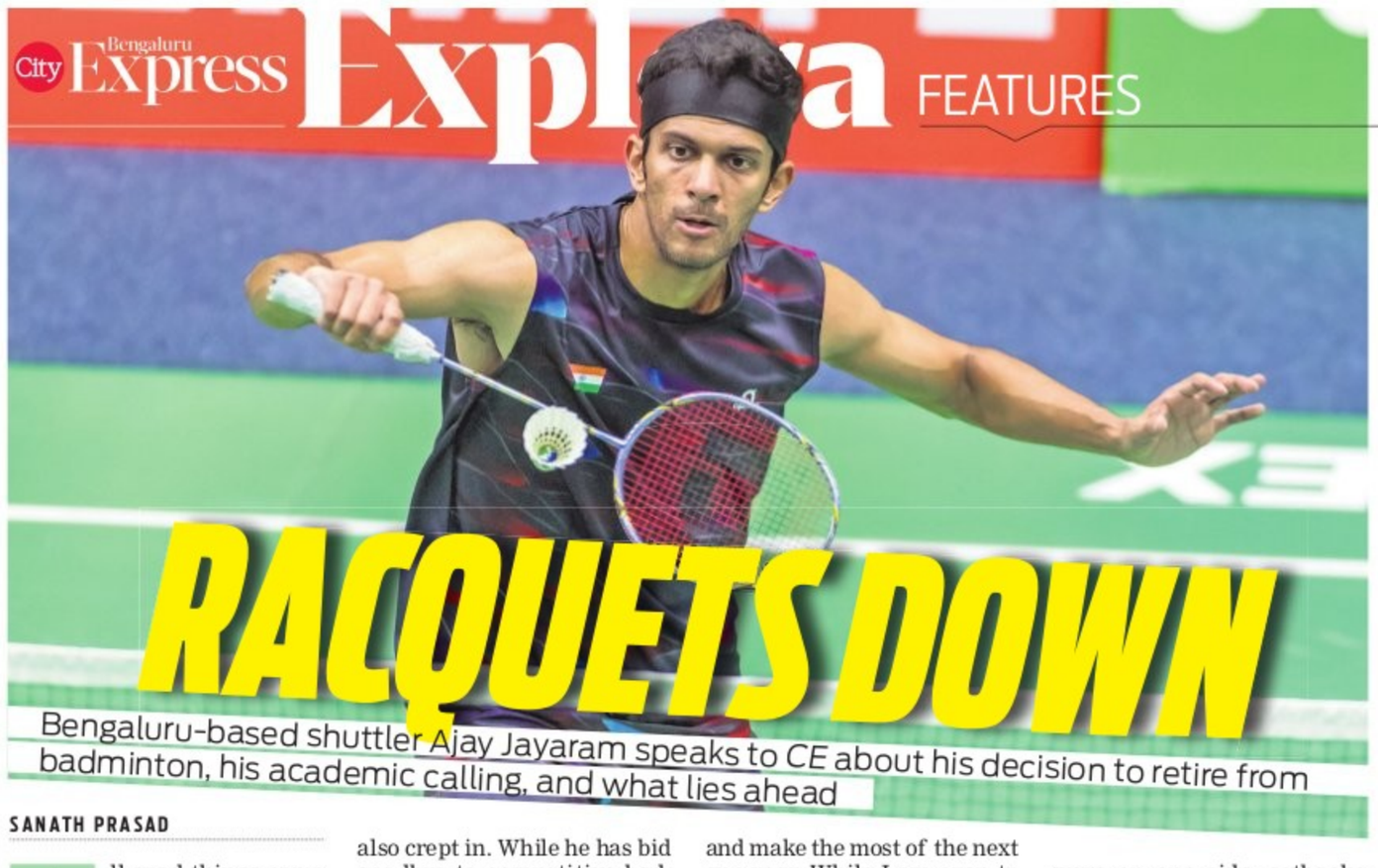
**LOVE, SIMON** (English)
Simon Spier keeps his sexual orientation a secret from his family. However, when a blackmailer threatens to reveal it, he goes on a roller-coaster journey to come to terms with his identity.
**Cast:** Nick Robinson, Josh Duhamel, Jennifer Garner
- **Watch on:** Disney+Hotstar

**THE BIG SICK** (English)
A Pakistani stand-up comedian develops a relationship with Emily, a graduate student. But when she falls sick and is placed in an induced coma, he takes care of her while bonding with her parents.
**Cast:** Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Holly Hunter
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**CHEMICAL HEARTS** (English)
17-year-old Henry Page is the editor of his high school newspaper and hopes to become a successful writer one day; his secret: he has never been in love, yet he dreams of the great and romantic love story that fulfils and inspires him.
**Cast:** Lili Reinhart, Austin Abrams
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Disney+ Hotstar:** | ₹ 499 per year |
| **Apple TV:** | ₹ 99 per month |
| **Prime Video:** | ₹ 179 per month |
| **Netflix:** | ₹ 149 per month |



# RACQUETS DOWN

## Bengaluru-based shuttler Ajay Jayaram speaks to *CE* about his decision to retire from badminton, his academic calling, and what lies ahead

SANATH PRASAD

All good things come to an end. Sometimes it is an indication of a new beginning. That's exactly the case of Bengaluru-based shuttler **Ajay Jayaram**, who announced his retirement from competitive badminton on Saturday. After nearly two decades of a 'rollercoaster' badminton career, Jayaram has decided to call it quits. Announcing his retirement on social media, Jayaram said, "Badminton has defined most of what I am today. It has shaped me, taught me, grounded me and shown me what dreaming big can do...I've won, lost, cried, laughed, fought experienced highs and lows, lived and thrived, all within a rectangular space of 44*20 ft."

Just like everyone else, Jayaram too felt the pangs of the pandemic. Although he wanted to keep his badminton hopes alive since the onset of the pandemic, a desire to move on to start a new beginning also crept in. While he has bid goodbye to competitive badminton, academics seems to be his new calling.

Jayaram explains that he always wanted to pursue higher studies after retirement and he has now decided to take the academic plunge. "I have secured admission at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, for a flagship MBA course. I was always academically inclined since my early days. I hope to diversify my skill set and make the most of the next one year. While I am open to opportunities that may come my way, I hope to return to sports in a different capacity," says the 34-year-old who was coached by Tom John from 2010-2017 and by Anup Sridhar from 2019 onwards. "My coaches knew that my retirement was coming up sooner or later. Both were supportive of my decision," adds Jayaram.

From picking up badminton at the age of seven to reaching World No. 13 in 2017, Jayaram's journey was filled with many ups and downs. Some of his best moments in badminton, he recalls, is when he won the Korea Open in 2015, after defeating Danish player Viktor Axelsen and Taiwanese player Chou Tien-Chen. He also won back-to-back titles of Dutch Open in 2014 and 2015 and registered as the runner up in Dutch Open 2016. If victories were on one side, setbacks were another. "There were times when I lost opportunities to be part of tournaments and fund myself on many occasions. But my passion for badminton helped me face the challenges and that is what kept me going," says Jayaram, who is also an artist.

He picked up sketching in 2016 and since then, it has helped him complement with badminton "as athletes we all go through stressful times. Sketching helped me destress. In the lockdown, I picked up painting. I always love to portray humans and their emotions on my canvas. Getting these two elements always intrigues and motivates me. I would love to keep my passion for art going," says Jayaram, whose first sketch was that of American actor Jack Nicholson.

> *My coaches — Tom John and Anup Sridhar — knew that my retirement was coming up sooner or later. Both were supportive of my decision* -Ajay Jayaram, shuttler

With CareMore Foundation, the actor hopes to create and spread awareness about sustainability

# Trash to treasure

ANILA KURIAN

THE pandemic has rung alarm bells on the state of the environment, an issue that many activists have raised. And actor **Samyukta Hornad** has taken a creative route to ask people to care more about our surroundings.

To make it more concrete, the actor and her friend/ business partner, Gotama Gowda, have officially started CareMore Foundation. As part of their first official event, the duo, along with many other volunteers, gathered at Bangalore Creative Circus in Yeshwantpur to spread awareness about sustainability.

"We saw about 40 volunteers come together and bring waste products from home. They were anything – bottles, old CPUs that were lying around collecting dust at home – and we converted them into planters," says Hornad, who says the concept was a BYOB — Bring Your Own Bit of Junk.

Hornad and Gowda have been working together for years now, including providing meals during Covid and fixing potholes.

"I've known Gotama for more than a decade now. We've done some significant work together and we have a core team which includes lawyers, CSR activities and artistes who come together to make the city a better place," she says, adding that the foundation was officially named while the work has been happening for a couple of years now.

"To see the young community come together and spread awareness about sustainability in a fun way is what we are aiming to do with CareMore Foundation. This particular event we had recently was a way to spread the message. We want to incorporate more people, more plans with other associations, including the BBMP, and work towards making people more responsible in their daily lives," says Gowda, who is also a tech entrepreneur.

> *There were about 40 volunteers who converted bottles, old CPUs and other home junk to planters*
> -Samyukta Hornad, actor

Hornad feels using social media is a great way to spread the message. They are working on setting up the website which will have upcoming events and other deets. "We will also be sharing our work through social media and hope to gain more traction. Almost everyone wants to help out but they don't know how to go about it and perhaps fun events like these can help them add these small steps in their day-to-day activities," says Hornad.

CareMore Foundation is open to all and will include activities, workshops and more. For more updates on their upcoming activities, follow CareMoreFoundation on Instagram.

EXPRESS READ

### HAL and PHL sign agreement

An Intent of Cooperation (IOC) was signed between HAL and PHL for purchase of long-term lease for 20 helicopters, 10 civil variants of ALH Dhruv and Light Utility Helicopters at the ongoing Wings India-2022 at Hyderabad. The agreement aims to bring synergy between HAL and PHL in the helicopter ecosystem and strengthen the business in India's civil aviation market.

### Valedictory ceremony held

Presidency School Bangalore East held its valedictory ceremony recently to bid farewell to the outgoing batches of Class 10 and 12, for the academic year 2020-21. The theme of the ceremony was 'Awake-Inspire-Change'.
The event was attended by chief guest Dr Jagadish Mittur, principal consultant in the Biotechnology Facilitation Cell (BFC) at Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, along with the dignitaries Nafeesa Ahmed, director Presidency Group of Schools, and principals of unit schools. Some of the other highlights of the evening included testimonials from parents and the unveiling of the mascot. The evening culminated with vote of thanks and the candle lighting ceremony followed by a performance by a choir.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **NAGARAJA JINNENAHALLI GOVINDASETTY** R/at No.74, House 74/2, 2nd Main Road, 3rd B Cross, Chamundeshwari Nagar, Laggere Peenya Bangalore - 560058 have changed my name to **NAGARAJA GOVINDA SHETTY** vide affidavit dated:19/3/2022 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **VEENA MISHRA**, aged about 66 years, W/o Mr. Suresh Kumar Mishra, D/o. Late Rajeshwar Panday and Mrs. Ram Sakhi Devi, residing at Flat No. 1082, Tower-1, Prestige Ivy Terraces, Kaverappa Layout, Kadubeesanahalli, Bengaluru South Karnataka-560103. I declare that the names **"VEENA KUMARI"** and **"VEENA MISHRA"** are all same and is one person i.e., me. my actual and correct name is **"VEENA MISHRA"** for all purposes, transactions and proceedings. vide affidavit Dated: 08/02/2022 before Notary K.V. MANI, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, No. 15464139-Y, Rank: DFR, Name: **V. ELUMALAI,** resident of No. 168, 8th Cross, Bakshi Garden, Chickpet, Bengaluru-560 053 have changed my daughter name from **NISHA** to **NISHA DEVI .E,** vide affidavit dated: 25/3/2022, before Notary **Sivakumara .M.N** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SURESH KUMAR .S.JUMANI,** S/o Shamlal Gobindaram, R/at # 2285, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Near Style and Style, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SURESH SHAMLAL** to **SURESH KUMAR .S.JUMANI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SURESH KUMAR .S.JUMANI** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D. GUNASHEKAR** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **YESU BALA RAKESH,** S/o. Dominic Savio, R/at # 812, Begur Main Road, Near Nageshwara Temple, Begur, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to **YESUBALA RAKESH DOMINIC SAVIO** vide affidavit dated: 26.03.2022 before Notary **SHANKARANARAYANA,** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **(OLD NAME) NEELAVENI** spouse of No 15323026M HAV Mohana Rao Maddila Residing at Vill & Post: Boddapadu, Via: Kasibugga, Taluk: Palasa, Dist: Srikakulam, State: Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 532222, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) NEELAVENI MADDILA** Vide Affidavit Dated 25.03.2022 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SUSAN SANTHOSH KUMAR** R/at No.6, 6th Main Nehru Colony, Yaseen Nagar, HBR Layout, Bengaluru- 560043 have changed my name to **SUZAN SANTHOSH KUMAR** vide affidavit dated:19/3/2022 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **CHITHRA .S.S,** D/o Nithish Sagar Reddy, age 24 years, R/at No. 71/2, 1st Main Road, Near Srirama Temple, Sorahunase, Varthur, Benglauru-87 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHITHRA .S.S** to **NEVITHA RASHMI REDDY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NEVITHA RASHMI REDDY** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **YANKOBA** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MEENAKSHI,** spouse of No. 15464139-Y, Rank: DFR, Name: **V. ELUMALAI,** resident of No. 168, 8th Cross, Bakshi Garden, Chickpet, Bengaluru-560 053 have changed my name from **MEENAKSHI** to **E. MEENAKSHI,** and date of birth from 17/02/1982 to 17/01/1982, vide affidavit dated: 25/3/2022, before Notary **Sivakumara .M.N** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **AGNES ANTHONY,** D/o Vazhappilly Joseph Anthony, age 58 years, R/at # 2/1, Sneha Bhavan, Viveknagar, Bengaluru-560047, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANTHONY MARIAM** to **AGNES ANTHONY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AGNES ANTHONY** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-03-2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. JAYANTH** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MUKUND PATIL,** S/o. Kalyanarao, Residing at No. 127/1, 4th Main, Bande Matt Layout, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060, have changed my name from **MUKUND PATIL** to **MUKUND KALYANARAO PATIL** vide affidavit dated 24.03.2022, sworn to before Notary **S.R. RAVIKUMAR,** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **RATISH PANDYAR HARISH KUMAR RAO,** Aged about 34 years, S/o. P. Harish Kumar, Permanent resident of No. 200, 3rd D Cross, 7th Main, Maruthi Layout, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore - 560 061, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RATISH RAO P H** to **RATISH PANDYAR HARISH KUMAR RAO** vide affidavit dated 26.03.2022 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Nibha Dahiya**, Student and resident of no.79, Akshaya Redstone, Seegehalli, Kannamangala PO, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560067, have changed my name from **NIBHA DAHIYA to NIBHA ARYA SINGH,** vide Affidavit dated 25.03.2022 sworn before Advocate & Notary M.Krishnamurthy.B, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SIVANANDAM LAKSHMI DEVI,** R/o Spectra Raintree Apartments, C-302, 3rd Floor, 41, Sakamma Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru North Taluk, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru-560 084 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEVI SIVANANDAM** to **SIVANANDAM LAKSHMI DEVI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SIVANANDAM LAKSHMI DEVI** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. Chitra** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SAMYAK SUKUMAR BARGALE,** age 18 years, S/o Sukumar Dhanpal Bargale, residing at Flat #c-705, Mantri Elite Apartment, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560 076, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SAMYAK BARGALE** to **SAMYAK SUKUMAR BARGALE,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SAMYAK SUKUMAR BARGALE** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.I. BALAGURU** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SHOBHA DEVI,** W/o Suresh Kumar .S.Jumani, R/at # 2285, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Near Style and Style, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AARTHI SURESH** to **SHOBHA DEVI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHOBHA DEVI** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D. GUNASHEKAR** at Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **NIRMAL KUMAR**, aged 24 years, Son of Nachiappan Munthuvan Ambalam, Residing at No. 55/1, 19th Cross, Makara Jyothi Nivas, Lakshmipuram, Halsuru, Bangalore - 560 008, have changed my name from **NIRMAL KUMAR** to **"NIRMAL KUMAR NACHIAPPAN"**, vide Affidavit dated 25.03.2022, sworn before Advocate & Notary A.R. MUNEER AHMAED, Bangalore and hereafter, I shall be called and known as **NIRMAL KUMAR NACHIAPPAN.**

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SERVICE NO JC-313427F NB/ SUB NARAYANAGOWDA. M.K** of unit 12 FD COY, 7 ENGR REGT, C/o 56 APO, PIN: 914007, Have changed my father name from **(OLD NAME) KRISHNA GOWDA** to **(NEW NAME) M R KRISHNEGOWDA** vide affidavit dated 25.03.2022 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Manjunatha S N** S/o N.N. Shivasharanaiah Residing at #19/39, 2nd cross, Saraswathipura, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - 560096 have changed my name to **Manjunath S N** vide affidavit dated :25-3-2022 sworn before notary D.S. Chandrakanth, Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SUTHRAM VENKATESH,** S/o Satyanarayana Krishnaiah, age 53 years, R/at D-403, 4th Floor, N.R. Windgates, Chokkanahalli, Sampigehalli Road, Opp. Nakshatra Apartments, Bengaluru-560064 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUTHRAM VENKATESH** to **S. SHIVA NARAYAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **S. SHIVA NARAYAN** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-03-2022 sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.C. GOWTHAMI** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **AKSHAYA VIDYA RAO,** age 40 years, D/o Late M.N. Chandra Rao, residents of No. 1-1A, Hema Nilaya, 7th Cross, 6th Main, Pillappa Block, Near Venkateshwara Timber Depo, R.T. Nagar Post, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560 032, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VIDHYA C.** to **AKSHAYA VIDYA RAO,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AKSHAYA VIDYA RAO** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 24th March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA J.J.** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SUNITHA NAVEEN**, Residing at No. 307, Block 6, Skyline City Apartment, Nagarbhavi 1st Stage, Bangalore-560072 have changed my name to **SUNITHA KRISHNAMURTHY** vide affidavit dated 25/03/2022 sworn before notary Devaki M, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Smt. Sharadamani Hegde,** W/o Amarnath Hegde, aged about 68 years, R/at: No.11, Ashiana, 1st Main Road, Vijaya Bank Layout, B G Road, Bangalore-76 {Passport No:M7445895} declares that my name has been mentioned as **'Sharadamani'** {without Surname in my passport}. I Declare that my correct name is **"Sharadamani Hegde"** {with Surname ' hegde '} which has been sworn to by an affidavit before C N Balasubramanyam, Advocate & Notary public on 21.03.2022.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MUPPUDATHY**, S/o. Nallathambi, Aged about 27 years, Residing at No. 1/6, Railway Station Road, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu - 627 002, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUPPUDATHY** to **MOHAMMED FATAH** vide affidavit dated 26.03.2022 sworn to before A. Idinabba, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, TIMMANAGOWD S/o. Lingbasappa gouda R/o #371/B, Opp Govt. Primary School, Madlapur, Raichur - 584 123, have changed my name to **THIMANGOUDA PATIL** for all purposes, Vide affidavit dated 24.03.2022, Sworn before Advocate and Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **RAKESH THAMMANDRA** (New Name), Aged about 29 years, S/o. Maruthi Residing at No. 18, Prashanta Nilayam, Sindigi Compound, Raghavendra Theater, Bellary, Karnataka – 583101, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **RAKESH** (Old Name) to **RAKESH THAMMANDRA** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAKESH THAMMANDRA** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 26/03/2022 before Notary **Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman,** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **REBECCA LAZAR,** age 27 years, D/o W.M. Lazar, R/at No. 31/1, DGQA Residential Complex, Opp. to Air Force Training Command, Gunata Vihar, J.C. Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 006, Karnataka do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **M. REBAKA LAZAR** to **REBECCA LAZAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **REBECCA LAZAR** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23rd March 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SIVAKUMARA M.N** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **ROOPA MYSORE CHANDRASHEKAR,** resident of No. ER-302, 3rd Floor, Trivik Windwalk, Attur, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore -560064, have change my name from **ROOPA CHANDRASHEKAR** Vide Affidavit dated 26-03-2022 sworn before Advocate & Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **ANOUSHKA ANN MENEZES,** Resident of No. A4/207, Yamuna Block, National Games Village, Bengaluru - 560 047, Karnataka, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANOUSHKA MENEZES** to **ANOUSHKA ANN MENEZES** vide affidavit dated 25.03.2022 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SERVICE NO 16112713P HAV BULA RAJU** of unit CIW, DEPOT BN, MEG & CENTRE, Bangalore - 560042, Have changed my son name from **(OLD NAME) BULA LEEWIN** to **(NEW NAME) BULA LEWIN** Vide Affidavit Dated 18.03.2022 sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **PRASHANTH CHELUVARAJ** R/a August Park Apartments, C601, #3, 1st B Cross, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru- 560093 have changed my minor daughter's name from **AADHRITA PRASHANTH to AADHRITA MIA PRASHANTH (DOB: 25.09.2013)** vide Affidavit Dated: 25.03.2022 before Notary L. Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, No. 15464139-Y, Rank: DFR, Name: **V. ELUMALAI,** resident of No. 168, 8th Cross, Bakshi Garden, Chickpet, Bengaluru-560 053 have changed my son name from **KISHORE KUMAR** to **KISHORE KUMAR .E,** vide affidavit dated: 25/3/2022, before Notary **Sivakumara .M.N** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MILTON TERENCE RAJ .C,** S/o Christhu Raj, R/o 1/15, Kalidhasan Street, Ambalnagar, Ramapuram, Tiruvallur, Ambattur, Tamil Nadu-600089, now at Bengaluru, have rectified my date of birth from **31/05/1992** to **31/05/1993,** vide affidavit dated 25/03/2022, before Notary **L. Gopalakrishna** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SHEETHAL A. SELVIYA,** D/o. Ashirvadam .D, Residing at No. 171, Rajanna Building, Kalanagar Main Road, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru- 560015 India, have changed my name from **SHEETHAL A SELVIYA** to **SHEETAL SELVI .A** vide affidavit dated: 24.03.2022, sworn to before notary **S.R. RAVIKUMAR,** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SHEEBA R**, Age about 44 years, residing at No. 123, 1st Floor, Ramanjinappa Building, Near Ganesh Temple, Kodigehalli, Bangalore - 560 092, Karnataka, hereby declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from **VARSHA .S** to **VARSHA NAYAK** vide affidavit dated 26.03.2022 sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **CHANDANA J. (OLD NAME)** D/o Jayaramu aged 31 Years R/o #104, "Amogha" 14th Cross, 6th Main, NGEF Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-72. Have declared that i have changed my name as **CCHANDHANA JAYARAMU** insted of **CHANDANA J.** and in future my name will be called as **CCHANDHANA JAYARAMU** in all Records. Hence this affidavit Sworn to before Notary Chanchala Lakshmi at Anekal on 25/03/2022.

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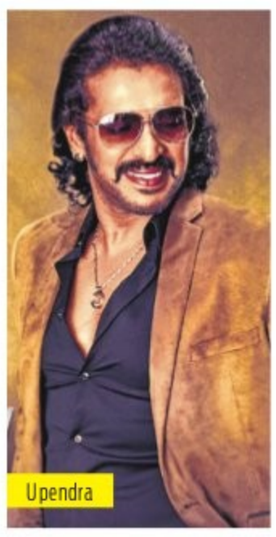
# 'UPENDRA WAS MY FIRST CO-STAR IN KANNADA'

**Tanya Hope talks about her upcoming film, *Home Minister*, which she considers her absolute debut**

A SHARADHAA

WHILE Tanya Hope became popular as the Basanni girl after her role in the Darshan-starrer Yajamana, the actor's first footsteps in Sandalwood was with *Home Minister*. Ahead of the film's release on April 1, Tanya shared her experience working in the Upendra-starrer. "It was the first time I was shooting properly in Karnataka, and speaking in my language," says Tanya, adding, "Though the film is releasing after a long delay, I'll always remember *Home Minister* as my Kannada debut."

Tanya shares that despite being a newcomer, she never saw Upendra as a stranger as his works and his legendary status made him a household name. "As a kid, I would sing and dance to one of The MTV song, which was one of my favourite tracks from an Upendra film. I'll always be grateful to Home Minister because it was a still from that film that lead me to Yajamana," she says.

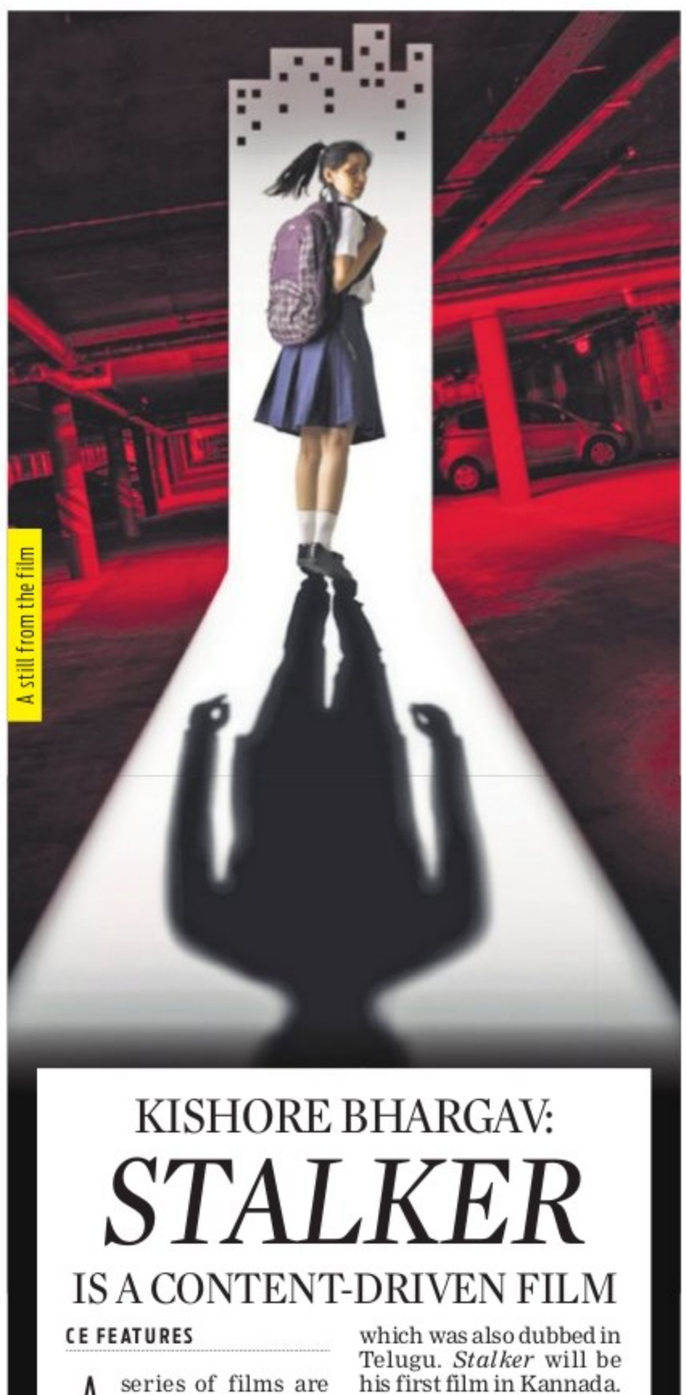

Upendra

Tanya says that just like all of Uppi's films, *Home Minister* will also have a unique subject. "It is about a working woman, and the man who takes responsibility of the household. I thought it was a good concept. We need to see some new things, and only Uppi Sir can bring out such characters that are palatable for the audience. Also, I was happy to work with Uppi. Who would not want to work with such a star?" she asks.

Reminiscing about working for *Home Minister*, Tanya says, "I remember being very nervous on the sets. I would look at him, and I would forget the lines. Uppi then spoke to me and said that we are all actors who are making a film. He made it so comfortable for a newcomer like me. I found Uppi sir to be a star without an attitude."

Meanwhile, Tanya is waiting to begin shooting for Jayathirta's *Bell Bottom 2*, which will go on floors in a month or two. She has also completed shooting for *Golmaal*, a Tamil film starring Jiiva among others, and is gearing up to join the shooting of actor Santhanam's next in Thailand.

Tanya Hope


A still from the film

## KISHORE BHARGAV: *STALKER* IS A CONTENT-DRIVEN FILM

CE FEATURES

A series of films are set to hit the screens as Ugadi is fast approaching. While a handful of films are getting ready to release on April 1, *Stalker*, directed by Kishore Bhargav, will release on March 31. Touted to be a thriller, *Stalker* is written by Kishore Bhargav along with Somashekara NK and Bharath Pramod. The film features actor Ram in the lead and Suman Nagarkar of Beladingala Baala fame playing an Anti-Terrorist Squad officer.

**Film will hit the theatres on March 31**

Kishore worked with Ram Gopal Varma for six years, and he has directed a Hindi film Psycho, which was also dubbed in Telugu. *Stalker* will be his first film in Kannada. "I would like to call Stalker a content-driven film. I am confident with the film. A one-and-a-half-hour long film, *Stalker* is a fast-paced thriller that will keep the audience guessing. It has some wonderful performances and great music scored by Skanka Kashyap," the director says.

The film, backed by SML Production and Script Tease Films, has cinematography by Vinod J Raji. *Stalker* also stars newcomers like Aiswarya Nambiar, Uday Achar, Namrata Patil, Jiten Arora, and Bhavanishankar Desai.

## Charlotte Ritchie joins Season 4 of Netflix's *You*

CE FEATURES

HOLLYWOOD actor Charlotte Ritchie will play a major role in the upcoming fourth season of Netflix's hit series *You*.

Ritchie will appear opposite Penn Badgley as Kate, a fearsome, smart, independent, suspicious person. Kate is a fiercely loyal friend, a brick wall to everyone else, and the daughter of a chaotic single mother. She has worked hard to create the life she now has. She's an art gallery director whose job means managing tempestuous artists. She's especially protective of best friend Lady Phoebe, a sweet and trusting person whose extreme wealth and fame tend to attract opportunists.

Kate prefers "arrangements" to love, which is why she dates fun but self-centred partier Malcolm. When Malcolm invites Joe, an American outsider of no apparent means, into their privileged world, Kate not only immediately dislikes him, she strongly suspects something about the man is not what he seems. Season 3 of *You* premiered on Netflix in 2021. The production on the fourth season began recently and is believed to be shot in Europe. Meanwhile, Ritchie is known for starring in Feel Good, opposite Mae Martin, Ghosts, and Call the Midwife.

Charlotte Ritchie

## *Only Murders in the Building* season 2 release date out

CE FEATURES

SEASON two of *Only Murders in the Building*, starring Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez will premiere on Hulu on June 28, 2022.

The first season followed Oliver Putnam (Short), Charles-Haden Savage (Martin), and Mabel (Gomez), who bind together to solve the murder of Tony Kono, one of Mabel's childhood friends. To help spur their investigation, the trio created a podcast to help guide their journey.

The first season ended on a cliffhanger, with one of the Arconia apartment building's most well-known tenants Bunny Folger dying. In the new season, Mabel, Charles, and Oliver will work to solve Bunny's tragic murder. However, the trio of amateur investigators are now suspects in the case of Bunny's murder. The second season of the series has Cara Delevingne joining the cast to play a sophisticate with links to the high-brow world of art.

*Only Murders in the Building* was created by Martin and John Hoffman, who previously worked on Grace & Frankie and Looking. Martin and Hoffman also serve as executive producers on the series along with fellow series stars Martin Short and Selena Gomez. This Is Us-creator Dan Fogelman and Jess Rosenthal also serve as executive producers.

In India, the first season of the series is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

## Lara Dutta tests positive for Covid-19

CE FEATURES

BOLLYWOOD actor Lara Dutta has tested positive for Covid-19. As per reports, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has sealed her Bandra residence and declared it a Micro Containment Zone. While Lara is yet to speak about it, she is the only one with the virus in her family, reports add.

On Friday, Mumbai recorded 38 new Covid-19 cases amid rumours of a fourth wave.

Lara last appeared in *Kaun Banegi Shikharwati* (on ZEE5). She portrayed late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in last year's *BellBottom*, co-starring Akshay Kumar. *Hiccups and Hookups*, a Lionsgate Play series starring Lara and Prateik Babbar, has been renewed for a new season.

Lara Dutta

Ishita Vishvakarma

## Ishita Vishvakarma to sing in Kangana's *The Incarnation - SITA*

CE FEATURES

INDIA'S Got Talent contestant Ishita Vishvakarma will be the voice of Kangana Ranaut-starrer *The Incarnation - Sita*. Ishita will be officially asked to board the film in a forthcoming episode of the show. She'll be handed over a signing cheque in the presence of guests Manoj Muntashir, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Badshah and Kiran Kher.

Talking about the same, director Alaukik Desai during his visit to the show said, "For the longest time, when I see talent on IGT, I have felt the need for them to be at a bigger stage and that is what is happening, right now as we are here."

The makers played a clip of Kangana welcoming Ishita to be the voice of the film. The episode will be aired on Sony TV at 8 pm tonight and Sunday.

*The Incarnation - Sita* was announced last year with Kangana in the lead. The film is produced by Saloni Sharma of SS Studio.

Kangana Ranaut